

F15.05 Resolution in Support of the Recommendations of the Chancellor's Accreditation Task Force 2015

Whereas: The U.S. system of regional accreditation continues a long tradition of providing essential guarantees of quality in America's post-secondary institutions; a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect between the regional commissions and their member institutions is essential to the success of the system of accreditation; and a shared focus on the needs and interests of students is primary and vital to preserve, and

Whereas: Over the last decade, the relationship in the Western Region between the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) and California's 112 community colleges has changed from one of constructive collegiality to one in which the member colleges increasingly report antagonism, intimidation and fear, and

Whereas: The ACCJC levels sanctions against California community colleges at a rate that is 400% of the sanction levels seen in other regions and in four-year California institutions,

Whereas: Concerns about the changed nature of the relationship between the ACCJC and many of its member institutions have been documented by resolutions, articles and complaints prepared and approved by leading statewide organizations of professional educators, including the Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers (CCC-CFT), the Community College Association of the California Teachers Association (CCA-CTA), the California Community College Independents (CCCI), the Faculty Association of the California Community Colleges (FACCC) and the Academic Senate for the California Community Colleges (ASCCC),

Whereas: Many Administrative, Trustee, Support Staff and Student Groups have joined faculty in expressing concern about the actions of the ACCJC,

Whereas: The growing concerns regarding the ACCJC have led to a review of the ACCJC's financial impact on community colleges by the CA Legislature's Joint Legislative Audit Committee, creation of three separate Task Forces by the California State Chancellor's office, filing of three lawsuits against the ACCJC, and multiple public statements of concern from members of California's Congressional delegation as well as state legislators, and

Whereas: The ACCJC's frequent sanctions based on the legitimate activities of trustees of Community College District Boards have raised serious concerns regarding the free speech rights of elected officials and the rights of voters to representation by duly elected officials, and

Whereas: Areas of non-compliance found during the ACCJC's regular review by the U.S. Department of Education prompted the DOE to continue its recognition of the ACCJC as an accrediting body for only a one-year period -- in which it must demonstrate compliance -- instead of the standard five-year period for renewal of recognition, and

Whereas: The 2015 Chancellor's Accreditation Task Force Report has researched and reported on the actions of the ACCJC and has recommended unanimously that the Chancellor either pursue joining the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission or affiliating with another regional accreditor,

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Therefore Be it Resolved: That the Crafton Hills College Academic Senate hereby joins with our colleagues throughout the state to express deep concern over the adversarial relationships fostered by the ACCJC, which pose a threat to fair accreditation and access to public higher education in California, and

Be it Further Resolved: That this body stands in strong support of the recommendations made by the Chancellor's 2015 Accreditation Task Force Report and endorses a new model for accreditation, including options such as forming a combined single accrediting commission with community colleges joining WASC Senior College and University Commission, in keeping with the prevalent model for regional accreditation, or identifying other regional accreditors that could serve the California Community Colleges.

Date _____

Title