



June 24, 2008

Mildred Garcia
President
California State University, Dominguez Hills
1000 E. Victoria Street
Carson, CA 90747

RECEIVED

JUL 01 2008

President's Office
CSU Dominguez Hills

Dear President Garcia:

At its meeting on June 18-20, 2008, the Commission considered the report of the team that conducted the Educational Effectiveness visit to California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) on February 13-15, 2008. The Commission also had access to the Educational Effectiveness Review (EER) report and the Capacity and Preparatory Review (CPR) report prepared by the institution, as well as your response to the team report, dated May 12, 2008. They appreciated the opportunity to discuss the report with you, Professor Shirley Lal, Professor Caron Mellblom, and ALO Linda Pomerantz-Zhang. Your comments were very helpful.

During both the CPR and EER visits, the teams found CSU Dominguez Hills to be seriously and effectively engaged in the WASC review process. As expressed in the EER team report, "Throughout the accreditation process, CSUDH demonstrated integrity, commitment, and resolve to engage each of the three stages of the review for institutional improvement across the core functions of the organization." (p. 2)

The EER site team reported a number of aspects of the institution's work that warranted commendation. Perhaps the most evident was the dedication of the faculty to the success of each member of the very diverse student population. This was evidenced in part by the innovative academic support programs, essential in view of the high percentage of students requiring remedial attention. The team also noted that, in spite of the transitions in key leadership positions immediately following the CPR visit, the self-study leadership team revealed sufficient depth and focus to carry forward the EER report without loss of effectiveness. These sustained efforts reinforced the team's perception that many of the activities pertaining to student learning and success were in fact embedded into the institution's culture rather than being recent or temporary in character.

985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100
Alameda, CA 94501
PHONE: 510.748.9001
FAX: 510.748.9797
E-MAIL: wascsr@wascsenior.org
INTERNET: www.wascweb.org

CHAIR
Sherwood Lingenfelter
Fuller Theological Seminary

VICE CHAIR
Horace Mitchell
California State University, Bakersfield

Mark Bookman
American Jewish University

W. Bernard Bowler
Public Member

Jerry Dean Campbell
Claremont School of Theology

Anna DiStefano
Fielding Graduate University

James Donahue
Graduate Theological Union

Jackie Donath
California State University, Sacramento

Aimée Dorr
University of California, Los Angeles

John Eshelman
Seattle University

John Fitzpatrick
Schools Commission Representative

Laurence Gould
Public Member

Brice Harris
*Community and Junior Colleges
Commission Representative*

Linda Johnsrud
University of Hawaii

Roberts Jones
Public Member

Christina Maslach
University of California, Berkeley

Leroy Morishita
San Francisco State University

William Plater
*Indiana University -
Purdue University, Indianapolis*

Sheldon Schuster
Keck Graduate Institute

Eleanor Dantzer Siebert
Mount St. Mary's College

Carmen Sigler
San Jose State University

Larry Vanderhoef
University of California, Davis

Mary (Sue) Wesselkamper
Chaminade University of Honolulu

Michael Whyte
Azusa Pacific University

Paul Zingg
California State University, Chico

STAFF
Ralph A. Wolff
President and Executive Director

Therese A. Cannon
Executive Associate Director

Richard A. Winn
Associate Director

Barbara Wright
Associate Director

Michelle Behr
Assistant Director

Ingrid Walker
Assistant Director

Shana Antoine
Finance & Operations Manager

The Commission also notes that the CSUDH faculty has demonstrated skill and insight in the assessment of learning and in the use of assessment results to improve learning. Across most units of the campus, faculty and staff appear to be familiar with the concepts of “a culture of evidence,” significantly aided by high-quality faculty development efforts. Key committees have worked with the academic senate to develop effective strategies to ensure that adequate numbers of students apply, and are admitted and retained. An inclusive strategic planning process has continued to make progress in moving a large number of initiatives forward. The opening of the new Loker Student Union has revitalized several critical aspects of the campus environment.

The Commission particularly appreciates the extraordinary range of courses, programs, and other activities that reflect the institution’s commitment to diversity. As the team noted, “The broad and creative approach to diversity described as ‘interactional diversity’ is a concept worthy of greater exploration and dissemination in the academy. CSUDH demonstrates its uniqueness as well as the creativity of its diversity efforts in ways unexplored by other institutions.” (CFR 2.9) The Commission commends these positive and effective efforts and urges their continuing development and sharing.

The team also noted several areas that warrant continuing attention. While the active and faculty-driven University Student Learning Outcomes Assessment committee (USLOAC) has had a significant campus-wide impact, the incorporation of student learning outcomes at the course and program levels is not uniform across the institution. It is seen as sluggish in some departments. Similarly, the linkage between student learning outcomes and the University Planning Council is still evolving. While the institution has implemented an effective focus on improving student writing competencies across the curriculum, other core competencies of the general education program have yet to receive similar attention (CFRs 2.3, 2.7, 4.7).

The EER team was satisfied that the institution is aware of its unfinished work in these and other areas, and has established appropriate priorities and processes to make reasonable progress in each of them. Together with their new institutional leadership, the faculty and staff at CSU Dominguez Hills show evidence of being poised to sustain the efforts that have characterized the institution during this review cycle. The Commission commends the CSUDH community and urges it to give continuing attention to these issues and to the recommendations in the team report.

The Commission acted to:

1. Receive the Educational Effectiveness Review Team Report
2. Reaffirm the accreditation of California State University, Dominguez Hills.
3. Request in Interim Report in spring 2012 addressing progress in the incorporation of assessment of learning in academic and co-curricular units within the institution, and the linkage of the results of such assessment with its strategic planning processes.

4. Schedule the Capacity and Preparatory review for spring 2018 and the Educational Effectiveness review for fall 2019. The institutional proposal will be due in spring 2016.

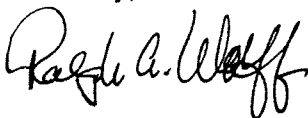
In taking this action to reaffirm accreditation, the Commission confirms that the institution has satisfactorily addressed the Core Commitments to Institutional Capacity and Educational Effectiveness and has successfully completed the multistage review conducted under the Standards of Accreditation. Between this action and the time of the next review, the institution is expected to continue its progress and be prepared to respond as expectations of institutional performance, especially with respect to Educational Effectiveness and student learning, further develop under the application of the Standards of Accreditation.

As you know, the Commission has recently approved revisions to the Standards and Criteria for Review and the Institutional Review Process. Your next comprehensive review has been scheduled in keeping with the changes to the timing of the review process. The Commission suggests that you review the changes to the CFRs, effective July 1, 2008, so that you are prepared to address the revised CFRs in your next review.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the Chair of the CSU Board of Trustees in one week. A copy of the letter will also be sent to Chancellor Charles Reed. It is the Commission's expectation that the team report and this action letter will be widely disseminated throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement, and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in them.

Congratulations on the successful completion of the accreditation review process. Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Wolff
President and Executive Director

RW/aa

cc: Sherwood Lingenfelter
Charles Reed
Board Chair
Linda Pomerantz-Zhang
Members of the visiting team
Richard Winn