California Community Colleges
Chancellor’s Office

Collective Comments Received
Pertaining to Accreditation from Organizations

- Academic Senate for California Community Colleges Executive Board [endorsement]
- Association of Chief Business Officials (ACBO) [no position]
- California Community Colleges Chief Instructional Officers (CIOs) [endorsement]
- California Community Colleges Chief Student Services Administrators Association (CCCSSAA) [no position]
- California Community College Independents (CCCI) [endorsement]
- California School Employees Association (CSEA) Chapter 167 [endorsement]
- Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers (CCC/CFT)/American Federation of Teachers Guild, Local 1931 [endorsement]
- Community College Association (CCA) of California [endorsement]
- Community College League of California CCCT [endorsement]
- Community College League of California CEOCCC [endorsement]
- Faculty Association of California Community Colleges (FACCC) [endorsement]
- Student Senate for California Community Colleges [endorsement]
Good morning to all,

I am in support of the Chancellor’s Accreditation Task Force and their recommendations.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas Hamilton, AFT President
Long Beach Council of Classified Employees Local 6108
Dear Pam,

The following organizations support the Chancellor’s Accreditation Task Force Report and urge the Board of Governors to move forward with the recommendations contained in the report:

California Federation of Teachers
Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers
American Federation of Teachers Guild, Local 1931 – San Diego and Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community Colleges

Thanks!

Jim
October 9, 2015

Chancellor Brice Harris
California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Harris,

I am writing to inform you that the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges unanimously supports the report of the Chancellor’s Office 2015 Task Force on Accreditation and the recommendations contained within that report.

At its regular meeting on September 11, 2015, the Executive Committee of the ASCCC engaged in an extensive and thoughtful discussion of the task force report. Various issues were raised regarding the potential impact of the report, but the tenor of the discussion was clearly supportive of the report’s conclusions.

At its following meeting on October 2, 2015, the Executive Committee took a formal vote regarding support for the task force report. The motion passed with one abstention and with no votes against.

At the 2015 ASCCC Fall Plenary Session on November 7, delegates from local academic senates around the state will vote on a resolution of support for the task force report. We will report the result of this vote to you once it is taken. However, in the interim between bi-annual plenary sessions, the Executive Committee is authorized to take formal positions for the ASCCC, and thus the Executive Committee conveys its clear and undivided support for the task force report and its recommendations at this time.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David Morse
President
October 30, 2015

Brice Harris, Chancellor
California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
1102 Q Street, Suite 4550
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Harris:

In response to your request at the October 8 Consultation Council meeting that constituency representatives submit its position on the recently released Accreditation Task Force Report and its recommendations, the Board of the Association of Chief Business Officials (ACBO) has reviewed and discussed the findings and recommendations contained in the report and provide this letter as its collective response to your request. As is the case throughout the system, the ACBO Board’s opinions on whether or not to support the recommendations is very mixed. However, the one common thread that connects all thirteen ACBO Board members is that the accreditation process, as it has existed, is fraught with inconsistencies.

The ACBO Board collectively agrees that the events leading up to the formation of the task force redirected resources, both human and financial, at all of our community colleges; from a focus on improvement to one of survival by whatever means possible. The ACCJC’s actions greatly impacted the resources of our system during one of the most severe financial and budgetary times in the history of our state and the California community colleges.

The ACBO Board appreciates the thorough work of the task force and what we suspect were thoughtful deliberations and analysis to arrive at its recommendations. The task force consisted of trustees, CEOs, instructional, student services and faculty representatives; however, no CBO representative was included on the task force. Therefore, without the benefit of participation in the process, the ACBO Board is unable to provide a position regarding the recommendations identified in the task force’s final report.

However, the ACBO Board, as an interested body external to the taskforce’s deliberations, respectfully requests that an accreditation process for our community colleges be one that is focused on improvement not punishment; on the need for colleges to be fiscally sound and viable going concerns today and in the future; and most importantly, has as its central core a commitment to a peer process that is not politically motivated but rather a partnership of the accreditation agency and its membership colleges to assist our colleges in doing what they do best, which is support and educate our local citizens so they can achieve their educational or career goals and become self-supporting and contributing taxpayers.
The ACBO Board appreciates the efforts you, as system Chancellor, and your staff have expended throughout the process. This Board remains committed to working with all parties to develop and provide effective training programs related to accreditation standards as they relate to the resources of our colleges, including, human, facilities, technology and financial resources; to serve on visiting teams in order to evaluate and recommend improvements that help to ensure that every community college in California continues as a going concern for the sake of its students, faculty, staff, administrators and taxpayers; and that resources support the mission, goals and objectives of our colleges and our great system of higher education.

Sincerely,

Andrew Suleski, President
Association of Chief Business Officials
October 29, 2015

Dr. Brice W. Harris  
Chancellor  
California Community Colleges  
1102 Q Street  
Sacramento, Ca 95811

Dear Chancellor Harris,

The California Community College Chief Instructional Officers met in San Diego on October 29 for it’s Fall 2015 Conference. At that meeting the organization voted overwhelmingly to support the recommendations of the Chancellor’s Office Accreditation Task Force.

Irene

Respectfully,
Dr. Irene Malmgren  
President CCCCIO
October 30, 2015

Dr. Brice W. Harris, Chancellor
California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, Ca 95811

Dear Chancellor Harris,

The CCCCSSAA Executive Board has consulted with the respective regions regarding the recommendations set forth in the 2015 Taskforce Report on Accreditation. After much thought and deliberation among the various regions, and consequently by the Executive Board, we have concluded that we are unable to take a position that accurately reflects the voice of the membership.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Angelica L. Suarez, Ph.D.
President, CCCCSSAA 2015-2016

C: CCCCSSAA Executive Board
November 2, 2015

Brice Harris, Chancellor
California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
1102 Q Street, Suite 4550
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Harris:

At its Fall 2015 Conference, on Saturday, October 24, 2015, the California Community College Independents (CCCI) voted unanimously to endorse the 2015 Accreditation Task Force Report and its recommendations.

CCCI looks forward to working with the Chancellor and the California Community College Board of Governors to address the continuing problems with the accreditation process under the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC).

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Richard Hansen, CCCI President
28 October 2015

Brice Harris  
Chancellor  
California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office  
1102 Q Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Harris:

On the important matter of the future of accreditation of California's 113 Community Colleges, and in direct response to the work of the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Accreditation Task Force, both the Trustee and CEO Boards of the Community College League of California have unanimously endorsed the following motions.

At its meeting on September 11 & 12, 2015, the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

"...to endorse the report of the Chancellor’s Task Force on Accreditation...and noted that the board endorses the report and its focus on continuing a statewide dialogue. The board’s priority is to have an accreditation process that functions to support student success and is consistent with the standards of four-year universities."

At its meeting on October 23, 2015, the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) Board unanimously adopted the following motion:

"Move to endorse and support the Task Force report to explore any and all options, including a recasting of the current accrediting agency, to result in an improvement of the accrediting process. This body [CEOCCC Board] and the CEOs we represent commit to supporting the process to seek this new model of accreditation."

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Galizio, Ph.D.  
President/CEO, Community College League of California
October 27, 2015

Dr. Brice Harris  
Chancellor of the California Community Colleges  
1102 Q Street  
Sacramento, California

Dear Chancellor Harris,

The Community College Association is composed of 42 chapters made up of faculty teaching at community college districts in California. Our statewide governance body, the Community College Association Council, met on October 18 and discussed the recommendations of the 2015 Accreditation Task Force. Our members unanimously endorsed the recommendations of the Task Force, either to join with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Division or to explore affiliation with another regional accrediting agency.

We hope that our support furthers the goal of returning to the collegial and supportive accreditation process enjoyed by the rest of the nation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lynette Nyaggah  
President  
Community College Association of California
October 30, 2015

Community College Chancellor Brice Harris
Office of the Chancellor
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, California

Dear Chancellor Harris,

We have read the Report of the 2015 Accreditation Task Force and we wholeheartedly endorse the Recommendations of the Task Force, specifically to either join with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Division or to explore affiliation with another regional accrediting agency.

Classified employees play a vital role in the success of any college. A successful accrediting agency should seek to collaborate with classified employees and ensure that they are equitably included throughout the accreditation process. This has not been our experience with ACCJC.

Sincerely,

Rodney Lusch
President, Chapter 167, California School Employees Association
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,
Resolution in Support of the Recommendations of the Chancellor’s Accreditation Task Force 2015

Therefore Be it Resolved: That California School Employees Association Chapter 167 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 _________________

Rodney Lusch
President, California School Employees Association Chapter 167

Dawnmarie Neate
1st Vice President, California School Employees Association Chapter 167
October 6, 2015

Dr. Brice Harris, Chancellor
California Community Colleges
California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office
1102 Q Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: Task Force Report on Accreditation
Position: Support

Dear Chancellor Harris:

This letter confirms the support of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges for the recently concluded report of the Task Force on Accreditation. We appreciate your leadership in this arena and look forward to working together with you on implementation of the recommendations in the report.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Lightman, CAE
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Pamela Walker, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services
Shaaron Vogel, President

JRL/jl
Dear Elected Officials and Representatives,

On behalf of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) and the 2.3 million students within our system we would like to fully endorse the Chancellor’s Office Task Force on Accreditation report.

We not only support the findings and recommendations within the report but we also consider it a momentous victory for our students. The ACCJC has engaged in arbitrary, punitive and wasteful "evaluation" processes that have done more harm to the very schools it’s suppose to be assisting. This is the very agency that has crushed City College of San Francisco, forcing the sale of CCSF property, driving students away from the system, demoralizing workers and suppressing wages, and even using the accreditation process to attack CCSF elected trustees who dared speak out publicly. Virtually every college in the state has wasted countless hours and dollars preparing to defend itself against the ACCJC onslaught, hoping to avoid being what happened to CCSF.

That is why we would like to take this moment to celebrate and congratulate the hard work of the Chancellor’s Office that will allow our system to move into a more independent and autonomous accreditation system.

Regards,
Dahlia Salem
SSCCC President 2015-2016