June 15, 2016

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President, Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges
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Dear Dr. Benjamin and Dr. King:

On behalf of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC), I am writing to thank you for your presentation to the Commission last week of A Preliminary Report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, the document developed by Work Group I of the Chief Executive Officers of the California Community Colleges (CEOs). The Commissioners appreciated hearing your insights and explanations of the report, and the hour-and-a-half discussion we were able to have with you. It is clear that thoughtful people have given careful consideration to how ACCJC might improve its practices.

As we noted at the meeting, the report arrived 24 hours before our joint discussion, and so not all Commissioners were able to read the Report in its entirety. We will do so now. The Commission is also considering proposals from its own work group that were presented at its meeting. Our intention is to review the two sets of proposals, and integrate the ideas and develop a response plan. We anticipate being able to provide you with preliminary information about how we are responding to each of your five areas of focus by late July or early August, after our work groups have a chance to continue the work they have begun.

We anticipate that we will likely ask for the assistance of your work group members as ACCJC moves forward. We would like to develop plans and implement them as quickly as possible, and to assess their effectiveness. As Dr. Benjamin stated in her presentation, your work group as well as member institutions have limited knowledge of some aspects of accreditation. Therefore, we also anticipate that when we have decided on our plan of action, there will be a need to inform constituencies of some of the complexities and connections among different aspects of ACCJC
accreditation practices, federal regulatory requirements, and ACCJC-member institutions’ experiences with effective practice. We hope you will also be willing to work with us on communicating to the member institutions the essential information critical for a greater understanding of accreditation, and for positive institutional experience with the process of accreditation in our region.

Thank you once again for your work. We are sure it will be helpful to the ACCJC and its member institutions going forward. We welcome your insights and participation in the important work of accreditation.

Sincerely,

Susan Kazama, Chair

Barbara A. Beno, President

SK: BAB/cms