September 3, 2015

To: All Presidents, Superintendents, and Chancellors

From: Steven M. Kinsella, Chair and Barbara A. Beno, President

Subject: Report of the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office 2015 Task Force on Accreditation (Task Force)

We are writing to inform you about a special meeting of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) that is tentatively scheduled for October 9, 2015. The Commission sent the attached invitation to the California State Chancellor’s office yesterday. The Chancellor has indicated he will have a response early next week. The purpose of this meeting is to engage in discussion with the California Chancellor’s Office Task Force on Accreditation about its Report issued late last week.

For those of you who are not leaders of California Public Community Colleges, you may not have received the report. It can be found online at: http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/O/reports/2015-Accreditation-Report-ADA.pdf. The report captures the findings and recommendations of the ten persons appointed to the task force by Chancellor Harris, and identifies nine thematic areas in which it feels accreditation practices have not been sufficiently responsive to changes in institutional needs and/or practices. The aim of the proposed meeting is to better understand the Task Force’s point of view and consider ways in which the ACCJC can address the issues raised and prepare for future changes in institutional practice. The Task Force may provide additional information for the ACCJC as it implements its new standards and new practices in spring 2016. You can find a summary of these new practices in the spring/summer ACCJC News http://www.accjc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/ACCJC_News_Spring_Summer_2015.pdf.

The tentative October 9, 2015 discussion will be open to the public so that interested others can attend. The Commission will then consider what additional changes to accreditation practice it will make, with a report likely given at the January 2016 Commission meeting.

When the special meeting date and location have been confirmed, we will send out a confirming message with location and meeting times. Please feel free to distribute this information to interested others at your campus.

SMK/cms

Attachment
September 2, 2015

Dr. Brice W. Harris, Chancellor  
Dr. Pamela Walker, Chair,  
Chancellor’s Office Task Force on Accreditation  
California Community Colleges  
1102 Q Street, Suite 4554  
Sacramento, CA 95811-6539

Dear Dr. Harris and Dr. Walker:

Thank you for sending us the notice of the publication of the Report of the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office 2015 Task Force on Accreditation (Task Force). As you know, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) recently completed a three-year review and revision of its standards and practices, and the perspective of the Task Force is different from the information ACCJC received during its review. We believe it would be helpful to discuss those differences and findings; therefore, we would like to extend an invitation to the Task Force (or representatives from the Task Force) to meet with the ACCJC at a special meeting of the Commission to discuss its recommendations. The purpose of this special meeting would be to listen to specific concerns and perceptions of the Task Force, how it reached its conclusions, and consider how ACCJC might address the issues raised and prepare for future changes in institutional practice described in the report.

The morning of October 9, 2015 has been identified as a potential meeting date, as the majority of Commissioners are able to be present. In order to allocate sufficient time for the discussion with Task Force members, we would like to schedule this special meeting, open to the public, for about three hours in the morning and then welcome the Task Force members to join us for lunch afterwards. The Commission would then meet in closed session that afternoon to further consider these matters. While the special meeting agenda will be reserved for the Task Force, a time-limited public comment period will be provided in accordance with our practice.

We look forward to hearing from you about the proposed date as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steven M. Kinsella, Chair

[Signature]

Barbara A. Beno, President

SMK/cms