July 9, 2012

Faculty, Staff, Students and Administrators
Los Angeles Southwest College

I received a letter this morning from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) dated July 2, 2012 notifying LASC that the Commission had imposed probation on our college effective immediately. The institution has retained all of its rights under accreditation during this period. As a result of the evaluation, LASC is required to address the Commission’s findings of non-compliance as reflected in six (6) recommendations.

These six recommendations focus on ensuring that LASC’s planning processes are adequately validated and evaluated, electronic communication is functional and maintained, distance learning students have parity of services with in-class students, library services, materials and collections are reviewed and updated and resources provided to maintain those services, professional development is enhanced and monitored, and utilization, actions and recommendations of the established college committee structure is fully documented and disseminated throughout the college. More specifically, the recommendations are:

1. In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends that the college validate the current planning model by formally assessing the effectiveness of the process with qualitative and quantitative data. Further, the team recommends the College be attentive to the regular and consecutive implementation of the annual process and document the results for dissemination to the college constituency for the purpose of program improvement.

2. In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends that the College maintains a functional website to encourage communication, particularly in the following areas: 1) information on programs and services for students, and 2) information and documentation on governance and other committee activities.

3. In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends the College review the availability of appropriate, comprehensive, and reliable services to all students. In particular, the team urges the College to review the parity of services provided to students in distance education as compared to students on campus.

4. In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends the library regularly update its print and online collections in consultation with discipline faculty. The team further recommends that, to meet the state Institutional Student Learning Outcome in Information Competency, the College implement a cycle of instruction, assessment, and program improvement through the appropriate learning resource and instructional areas of the College. Finally, the team
recommends that a sustainable funding source be identified for the acquisition and maintenance of learning resource materials.

5. In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends the College reviews all aspects of professional development, including key elements of peer review, self-reflection, and continuous review of appropriate pedagogy for the student population. In particular, the completion of faculty evaluations systematically and at stated intervals; engagement in dialogue addressing staff and faculty professional development on various teaching pedagogies and strategies to meet the diverse learning styles of its diverse student population.

6. In order to meet the Standard, the team recommends the College fully utilize the established consultative committee structure by documenting actions and recommendations in agendas, minutes, and other official tools to ensure that dialogues and decisions affecting the College are communicated widely and clearly across the campus constituencies.

There were also 5 district recommendations that can be accessed through the evaluation report – which is on our website.

We have been developing a plan to address these recommendations by March, 2013. Concurrently, our SLO’s will be reported on to ensure we are at the level of Proficiency. Over the next two weeks, I intend to meet with the college’s faculty and staff leadership to review the report and actions. I will be meeting with administrators on July 12th to review the report. We will be creating teams to address each of the recommendations and each recommendation will be provided clerical support. One of the key issues was having committee minutes/summaries that reflected the dialogue that occurs in each of the committees. To ensure that we are documenting pursuant to the Commission’s directive, we will be providing clerical support to the major college committees (Curriculum, Staff Development, Program Review, College Council and Strategic Planning, Distance Education).

After a thorough review of the evaluation report, I feel that we will be able to address their concerns and document each of the concerns appropriately.

The team report, ACCJC Action Letter, my response and this letter will be available on the website under Accreditation 2012.

If any questions arise, please don’t hesitate to contact me or EVP Walton or VP Trimble.

Sincerely,

Jack E. Daniels, III, PhD
President