



ACCREDITING COMMISSION for COMMUNITY and JUNIOR COLLEGES
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Barbara A. Beno, President
Steven M. Kinsella, Chair

March 28, 2016

Dr. Patricia Hsieh
President
San Diego Miramar College
10440 Black Mountain Road
San Diego, CA 92126

Dear President Hsieh:

This will confirm the date of the next evaluation visit as you requested. San Diego Miramar College is scheduled for an External Evaluation Team visit on Monday, March 13-Thursday, March 16, 2017.

If you have questions feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

G. Jack Pond,
Vice President

GJP/tl

Cc: Dr. Constance M. Carroll, Chancellor, San Diego Community College District
Dr. Daniel Miramontez, Accreditation Liaison Officer



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Dear President Hsieh:

I am writing to provide information about the upcoming external evaluation visit to your campus this fall. San Diego Miramar College is being evaluated against the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies.

As your College staff learned during Self Evaluation training, the accrediting process will focus attention on evidence that the institution meets each of the Commission requirements listed above. The documentary evidence provided to the external evaluation team should be organized so that it is easily accessible and available in the campus room set aside for the team. If your College is providing documentation in an electronic format, please give the team access to this documentation before it arrives on campus if possible.

The external evaluation team may ask for any specific documentation or information from the College during the visit. The *Guide to Evaluating and Improving Institutions* is intended to provide suggestions of evidence that could be used to address each Accreditation Standard. In 2011 the Commission developed a guide for external evaluation team members to use for Standard III.D – **Financial Resources**. A copy of the Required Evidentiary Documents for Financial Review is enclosed.

I also want to remind you that external evaluation teams must examine the quality of educational programs and student support services provided at off-campus sites. U.S. Department of Education regulations require all off-campus sites that offer 50% or more of a program, degree or certificate be visited by the external evaluation team.

Teams must also have appropriate access to courses, programs and student support services provided through electronic media, i.e., distance or correspondence education. The team will review them before the date scheduled for the campus visit. Please make sure you arrange for electronic access to these programs and services.

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I anticipate your accreditation visit will provide both a rewarding validation of the San Diego Miramar College's strengths and helpful recommendations for continuous quality improvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Jack Pond". The signature is stylized with large loops and a cursive style.

G. Jack Pond
Vice President

GJP/tl

Cc: Daniel Miramontez, Ph.D., Accreditation Liaison Officer

Enclosure

**Required Evidentiary Documents for Financial Review
Supplemental Guidelines for Standard III.D for CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

ACCREDITATION QUESTIONS	EVIDENCE
Has the college received an unmodified opinion? Has the college received any qualified or adverse opinions or disclaimer of opinions in audit reports in the last 3 years from district, state or federal programs? Has an audit report included an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph?	Audit Reports (last 3 years)
Has the college implemented all audit findings and recommendations? Have there been the same recommendations for more than one year? What is the auditor's response to the management actions taken?	Management response to auditor's findings and recommendations (last 3 years) CCFS 311 (last 3 years)
What is the institution's unrestricted fund balance and reserves and how has it changed over the last three years?	CCFS 311Q (Most recent quarter) Fiscal Trend Analysis of 311 Data (Can be accessed online at CCCC website.)
Does the College maintain a minimum 5% unrestricted reserve of cash or cash equivalent?	Audit Report
Has the State Chancellor's Office had to intervene regarding fiscal stability or compliance?	Letter of agreement between State Chancellor's Office and District, Chancellor's Office communication document, Fiscal Health Certificate
Does the college have long term debt financing?	Audit Report
Does the institution have an obligation for post retirement health benefits (OPEB), compensated absences, and other employee related obligations? If it does, has it done the actuarial study and identified the liability? Is there a plan for funding them?	Actuarial study for post-retirement health benefits, collective bargaining agreements, board policies, actuarial report, reserve reports. Institutional Plan for funding the liability
Does the institution have limits on accrual of unused vacation time? Compensatory time? Is the institution enforcing its policy on limits?	Leave Accrual Policy in Contractual Agreement and Labor Agreements, Board Policies, Human Resource Records
Is the fiscal entity self insured for health benefits, workers compensation, and unemployment? How are reserve levels set?	District Self Certification
Does this fiscal entity have obligations for future total compensation expenditures driven by collective bargaining agreements or other agreements (corporate-buy outs, management/employee agreements, etc)? If so, what are they? Of what significance are they? What is the plan for funding these future obligations?	Current Bargaining agreements District Funding Plan Executive Officer agreements regarding buy-outs and other conditions of employment



**Required Evidentiary Documents for Financial Review
Supplemental Guidelines for Standard III.D for CALIFORNIA PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS**

ACCREDITATION QUESTIONS	EVIDENCE
Does the institution and the foundation have an agreement/contract on the role of the foundation? Does it require that the foundation have an independent audit?	Copy of the Agreement Copy of Foundation audited financial statements (last 3 years) Required Continuing Disclosure submittal
Does the college or district have a Prop 39 bond fund?	Copy of minutes from Bond Oversight Committee Copy of audit reports from the last 3 years
Does the college have policies and procedures regarding purchasing? Are they being followed?	Self Certification Policies
Will additional buildings be opened in the next 2-3 years? Is there a plan to fund staff, utilities and operating expenses associated with additional facilities coming online within the next 2-3 years?	Copy of the most current Facility Master Plan Funding Plan Educational Master Plan Total Cost of Ownership Plan Staffing/Human Resources Plan
Is there evidence that planning integrates fiscal and other resources?	Internal documents
Is there evidence that the institution monitors student financial aid obligations such as student loan default rates and compliance with federal regulations?	Annual Financial Report, Financial Aid Compliance Reports

Edited: February 2, 2015





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Dear President Hsieh:

In 1999, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges adopted a policy on the evaluation of institutions in multi-college districts (*Policy and Procedures for the Evaluation of Institutions in Multi-College/Multi-Unit Districts or Systems*). This policy was revised in June 2015. It requires colleges undergoing external review to provide with the Institutional Self Evaluation Report a clear description of district and college authority and responsibility in areas of operation and decision making addressed by the Accreditation Standards. The purpose of this clarification is to provide clear guidance to the college conducting its self-evaluation activities on where the locus of responsibility or authority is, and to provide to the visiting team clear direction for team inquiry during the external evaluation visit. The teams visiting the colleges in your district will develop a collective evaluation of district operations using the Accreditation Standards.

Accordingly, as part of its Institutional Self Evaluation process, San Diego Miramar College is asked to provide an organizational map of the functional lines of authority and practice in the district-college relationship. This map should not merely be an organizational chart, but rather a descriptive analysis of both intended and actual practices, as well as what is understood about the impact of the division of responsibility on the colleges. If appropriate, lines of responsibility and authority among the colleges of the district should also be included.

In asking for this information, the Commission acknowledges that each multi-college district or system may choose to distribute authority and responsibility for institutional functions in a unique way.

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Since one of the purposes of accreditation review is to assess institutional effectiveness, it is necessary for visiting teams to know how each district or system has chosen to organize. The external evaluation team will develop conclusions regarding issues pertaining to the district for inclusion in the report to the Commission.

Please let me know if you need any assistance.

Sincerely,



G. Jack Pond
Vice President

GJP/tl

cc: Dr. Constance Carroll, Chancellor