

From: President
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 3:49 PM
To: Faculty-Staff
Subject: WASC Commission Letter

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to convey my personal thanks to all of you for the wonderful participation and support that you provided during and after the October 2008 WASC site team visit. The WASC team chair was very impressed by the high level and quality of campus participation, and by the obvious dedication and pride shown by students, faculty, staff and administration of our University.

Since that time, the campus community has dedicated itself to addressing WASC's major recommendations, and I commend you on the progress we have made – and continue to make – to achieve our goal of reaccreditation at the highest level.

We have now received the WASC Commission action letter (attached) in which the Commission acts to continue accreditation of CSU Stanislaus and to proceed with the final stage of the accreditation process, the Educational Effectiveness Review scheduled for March 3-5, 2010. The Commission also acknowledges the implementation of our new Ed.D. program.

To prepare for this final phase of reaccreditation, we are required to incorporate into our self study substantial evidence that we have addressed issues raised in the action letter and the major recommendations of the CPR team report. Issues in the action letter include assessment of general education; support for graduate education; refinement/implementation of definitions of research, scholarship, and creative activity; and assessment of student learning at the program level.

Based upon my discussions with the WASC Commission and my experience on several WASC visiting teams for other campuses, I wish to emphasize the critical importance of our demonstrating that we have gone beyond discussions and have taken concrete actions to meet WASC standards. For instance, it is imperative that we develop RPT criteria for research, scholarship, and creative activity that respond satisfactorily to the Commission's repeated concerns. This should, of course, be accomplished through open discussion and with reference to successful models in use in the CSU and elsewhere, especially models of University level criteria. Adaptation of such models to our own culture and values should both satisfy WASC's requirements and provide us with clear policy and expectations for success. Likewise, assessment of general education, including direct measures of student achievement of general education outcomes, must result in a curriculum that is a vital element of the university's identity and one that ensures each graduate has met the objectives of both the major and general education.

Please join me in expressing our gratitude to the Inquiry Circles and the Self-Study Team for the excellent job they have done and in assuring them of our continued cooperation and support. You can all take great pride in this accomplishment that we achieved together.

Regards,
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Enclosure – WASC Commission Action Letter

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