ACCREDITATION 101A – AN INTRODUCTION

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❑ **What brings you here?**

❑ **What questions, concerns would you like addressed?**

ASCCC STATEMENT ON ACCREDITATION*
(*FULL TEXT IN YOUR PROGRAM*)

The Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) values the peer review process of self-reflection and improvement known as accreditation.

*Adopted by the body fall 2013, Resolution 2.01 F13,
http://asccc.org/resolutions/asccc-statement-accreditation

WHAT IS THE ASCCC ROLE IN ACCREDITATION?

Our primary role is to provide support that helps colleges to meet the standards:

- Through its annual Accreditation Institute

- By sharing accreditation information

- By providing technical support through local college visits and regional presentations.

(Adapted from the ASCCC Statement on Accreditation)

THE ASCCC SUPPORTS -

the ideal of a fair and meaningful accreditation process. We recommend and advocate for improvements to the accreditation standards and processes by providing thoughtful feedback and input to all accreditation participants.

(Adapted from the ASCCC Statement on Accreditation)

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION?

Accreditation is the process for evaluating and assuring the quality of education used by the American higher education community.

WHO PARTICIPATES IN ACCREDITATION PROCESSES?

A. Faculty

B. Administrators

C. Classified Staff

D. Students

E. All of the above

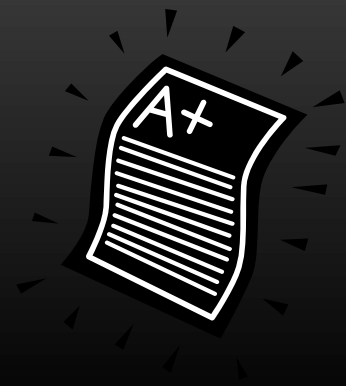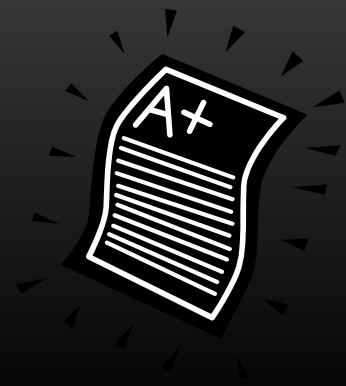# YOUR LOCAL ACADEMIC SENATE'S ROLE

- Providing and ensuring faculty leadership and involvement in accreditation

- Faculty involvement in accreditation is an academic and professional matter

- From Title 5 §53200(c)(7): Faculty roles and involvement in accreditation processes, including self-study and annual reports
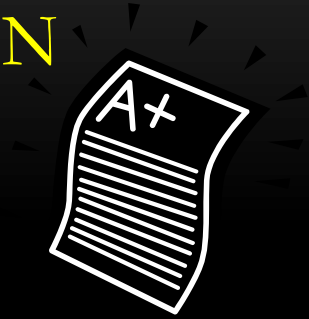
WHAT IS THE FACULTY ROLE IN ACCREDITATION?

A. Participation in the self-evaluation

B. Writing the report

C. Validating the accuracy of the report (senate review and approval)

D. Meeting with accreditation team visitors

E. All of the above

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE OF ACCREDITATION?

A. It compares colleges to best practices in education.

B. It punishes colleges based upon audits.

C. It grades and ranks colleges based on standards.

D. It is a means of monitoring colleges.

E. It guarantees the quality of education to the federal government and the public.

HOW MANY CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES ARE CURRENTLY ON SANCTION AS OF JANUARY 2014?

A. None

B. 5-6 colleges

C. 10 colleges

D. 25 colleges

E. 32 colleges

ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES, (ACCJC)

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES (WASC)

2002 Standards

2012 Updates

and… 2014 draft revision of Standards

Review and comments period ends April 30, 2014

ACCJC assures the educational community, the general public, and other organizations and agencies that an institution…

❖ has clearly defined objectives appropriate to higher education

❖ has established conditions under which their achievement can reasonably be expected

❖ appears in fact to be accomplishing them substantially

❖ is so organized, staffed, and supported that it can be expected to continue to do so; and demonstrates that it meets Accreditation Standards

THE STANDARDS

- Standard I: Mission, Academic Quality, Institutional Effectiveness and Integrity

- Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Support Services

- Standard III: Resources

- Standard IV: Leadership and Governance

ORGANIZING THE EFFORT

- How do you recruit faculty?

  - Chair(s)

  - Editor(s)

  - Participants in self evaluation and site visit

  - Processes

    - Existing or new?

    - Reassigned time?

THE ALO VERSUS THE FACULTY CHAIR

- Official Responsibilities

  - ALO is the conduit to the ACCJC and is responsible for informing administration and campus about accreditation efforts

  - Faculty chair is responsible for faculty participation, involvement, and role within the accreditation efforts

  - The relationship between the ALO and the faculty chair is essential; both should attend training sessions, participate in ACCJC sponsored events, and the like.

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"I could be a more effective member of the team
if the others would just shut up and go away."

CREATING THE STANDARDS TEAMS

- Necessary components:

    - All stakeholders

        - Faculty, staff, administrators, students, board members if needed

    - Mix of senior and junior faculty

    - Mix of disciplines

        - Your faculty should not all be from one area!

    - Recognition of potential "rogue" elements and plans to deal with them as needed

A bit of context.....

"Over the five years from January 2009 to January 2013, the number of colleges on sanction has not increased significantly, and the reasons for placing colleges on sanction differ.

The colleges placed on a sanction also differ from year to year as some colleges have made improvements and are removed from sanction."

ACCJC Newsletter, June 2013.

Trends in Deficiencies Leading to Sanction
(ACCJC Newsletter, June 2013)

Colleges on Sanction	Program Review	Planning	Internal Governance	Board	Financial Stability or Management
2009 Sanctions (n=24)	71% (17)	92% (22)	46% (11)	46% (11)	54% (13)
2010 Sanctions (n=19)	68 % (13)	89% (17)	42% (8)	58% (11)	58% (11)
2011 Sanctions (n=21)	19% (4)	71% (15)	24% (5)	67% (14)	62% (13)
2012 Sanctions (n= 28)	21% (6)	71% (20)	18% (5)	71% (20)	50% (14)
2013 Sanctions (n=25)	28% (7)	64% (16)	20% (5)	68% (17)	52% (13)

Trends in Deficiencies Leading to Sanction

❖ The proportion of institutions with deficiencies in program review work has decreased considerable from 71% of those on sanction in 2009 to 19% of those on sanction in 2012, then increased to 28% in 2013.

❖ The proportion of institutions with deficiencies in planning practices has decreased somewhat from 92% of those on sanction in 2009 to 64% of those on sanction in 2013.

❖ Internal governance deficiencies have decreased from 46% of those institutions on sanction in 2009 to 20% of those on sanction in 2013.

(ACCJC Newsletter, June 2013)

Trends in Deficiencies Leading to Sanction

❖ Of most concern, the proportion of institutions with deficiencies in governing board practices has remained too high at 68% in 2013.

❖ The proportion of institutions on sanction with deficiencies in financial stability or management has remained at or slightly above 50% since 2009.

(ACCJC Newsletter, June 2013)

So then, back at your ranch…

Conducting the Self Evaluation

Review of past reports and recommendations and college responses

- ✓ **Midterm Report**
  - ✓ **SLO Proficiency report (and analysis from ACCJC)**
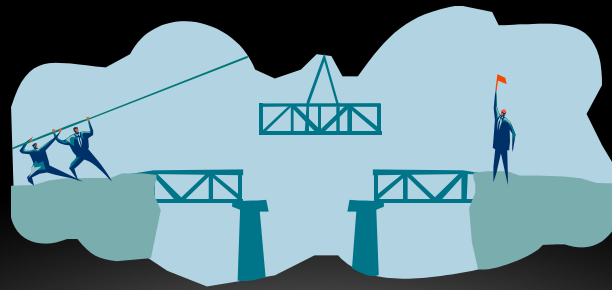- ✓ **Follow up Report**
- ✓ **Commission letter and report….**

Assessment or Survey of Current Status

- ✓ **Eligibility Requirements**
- ✓ **Standards**
- ✓ **Policies**

Gap Analysis

- ✓ **Identification of critical areas of concern**

- ✓ **Short-term punch lists**

- ✓ **'Actionable improvement plans'**

Evidence

❖ **Collect and organize evidence**

❖ **Connect the pieces**

    ❖ Make sure evidence supports claims

    ❖ Guide the analysis

Writing the Self Evaluation Report

- ✓ **Timelines**

- ✓ **Review, vetting, editing**

- ✓ **Approvals**

ACCJC RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

- **Eligibility Requirements and Standards**

- **Accreditation Reference Handbook**

- **Guide to Evaluating Institutions**

- **Accreditation Standards Annotated for CQI and SLOs**

- **Guide to Accreditation for Governing Boards**

- **Guide to Evaluating Distance and Correspondence Education**

- **More…**

- **Note: use most current versions**

  - **Annual updates**

  - **To be revised once revised Standards are approved**

  http://www.accjc.org/

ACCJC RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

The following resources are taken from ACCJC presentations and workshops and cover Institutional Financial Review and Resources. You will want to download all documents:

- **Cover Memo: Institutional Fiscal Data and Requirements for Evidentiary Documents**

- **Required Evidentiary Documents for Financial Review**

- **Explanatory Matrix of Auditor's Opinions**

- **Sample Schedule of Financial Trends Analysis**

- **Note: use most current versions**
  - **Annual updates**

The Evaluation Team Visit: what to expect

❖ **Preparations**

   • **Budget**

❖ **Meetings**

❖ **Open forums**

❖ **Report of team recommendations**

And so it goes…

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.