



Date: June 27, 2017
To: All Interested Parties
From: Richard Winn, Interim President
Subject: June Announcements

Commissioner Elections

Following the annual election cycle to fill positions that are open as Commissioners reach their term limits, we are pleased to welcome four new Commissioners.

Academic Member, Faculty Representative (2)

Dr. Barbara Dunsheath, Professor of History, East Los Angeles College and Trustee, North Orange County Community College District, was elected to a first term.

Ms. Sally Pestana, Director of Non-Credit Health Education, University of Hawai'i, Kapi'olani Community College, was elected to a first term.

Administrative Member, Independent Institution Representative (1)

Dr. Danika Bowen, Vice President of Accreditation and Professional Regulation and Accreditation Liaison Officer, Carrington College, was elected to a first term.

WASC Senior College and University Commission Representative (1)

Dr. Maria del Carmen Sigler, Retired College Administrator, was elected to a first term.

Two members were elected to serve a second term.

Administrative Member, Pacific College Representative (1)

Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada, President/CEO of Guam Community College, was elected to a second term.

Administrative Member, California System Representative (1)

Mr. Erik Skinner, Deputy Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, was elected to a second term.

The new Commissioners' terms begin November 1, 2017 and they will be seated and introduced at the January 2018 Commission meeting.

Commission Farewells

At their June meeting, Commissioners addressed the meaning of “terming out” as they said farewell to members who concluded six years of service. John Zimmerman brought the perspectives of the private colleges; Susan Kazama brought the Hawai‘ian college experience; Tim Brown informed the Commission’s work from the perspective of an academic member; and Eleanor Siebert spoke on behalf of the WASC senior college point of view.

Staff Retirements

Mr. Garman “Jack” Pond, M.A. will retire from his position as Vice President effective June 30, 2017. Jack was one of best known staff members of the ACCJC, where he was responsible for Team Operations and publications. In 13 years in that role, he had personal contact with hundreds of visiting team members as he organized teams. He developed and conducted Self-Evaluation Training and Team Training events and developed the many publications used in the Accreditation process. Jack, characterized by his openness and easy-going manner, was the person often asked for by callers to the ACCJC office because of his personal connections with college staff. Jack joined the staff in 2004 after six years of service as Commissioner and 32 years at Leeward Community College in Pearl City, Hawai‘i where he was faculty emeritus and taught English, Spanish, and ESL. At Leeward, Jack served on the Faculty Senate for 25 years and served as Senate Secretary for 15 years. He received the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents’ Excellence in Teaching award in 1984 and was the Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences from 2003 to 2004.

Dr. Norval Wellsfry will retire from his position as Vice President effective June 30, 2017. Norv provided support for Substantive Change reviews and the Commission Eligibility processes, guided the annual financial review process, and facilitated the financial and data analysis activities of the ACCJC. He facilitated the development of the Bachelor’s Degree initiatives and was active in the training and educational activities of the Commission and as Norv says, he “participated in more accreditation visits than he can remember.” From 2004 to 2010, he was an ACCJC Commissioner. Norv joined the Commission staff in February 2011 after retiring as a Professor of Accounting and Computer Information Systems at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento, California. He was an administrator at Sacramento City College (1980–1999) and Antelope Valley College (1976–1980) in California. He was also a faculty member and administrator at Tidewater Community College in Virginia (1971–1976). Norv has been the President of several state and national organizations and was an active participant in state and national task groups on issues related to Career Technical Education, Student Outcomes, and community college finance.

New Training Modality

Guided by Vice President Stephanie Droker, ACCJC’s various training events are taking an innovative direction. In preparing team chairs to guide the review process, and team members to conduct rigorous and helpful reviews, the training events will rely heavily on the perspectives of experienced peers who have filled these roles on previous visits. Similarly, as institutional teams prepare for their own visits and begin to craft their Institutional Self-Evaluation Reports (ISER), the training will bring in leaders from institutions that have experienced a recent comprehensive review. A similar training model is being planned for newly elected Commissioners. The effectiveness of this approach was confirmed during the recent ACCJC conference when experienced Accreditation Liaison Officers (ALOs) played a key role in the workshops for newly appointed ALOs.

Dues and Fees

In case you missed this important announcement at the ACCJC Conference and during the open session of the June Commission meeting, Commissioner Mary A.Y. Okada, Chair of the Budget Committee, announced that there will not be a dues increase for member institutions for the 2018-19 fiscal year. This is the first time in many years that an annual increase has not been levied. Similarly, the Special Assessment that has been charged to meet legal costs is being suspended for the coming year in anticipation of a reduction in those costs.

U.S. Department of Education and NACIQI

The ACCJC office was pleased, on May 25, to receive the official letter from the senior officer of the U.S. Department of Education confirming the recommendation of Department staff and of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) to continue the recognition of ACCJC as a qualified institutional accreditor. It also acknowledges ACCJC's qualification to approve first baccalaureate degrees at member institutions. This renewal of recognition covers the remainder of the typical five-year period of recognition, which means that staff will complete the preparation of the next application for renewal of recognition by summer 2018.

Assessment Leadership Academy

Over the past six years, a number of community college faculty have been accepted into the Assessment Leadership Academy. This acclaimed program was developed by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) to prepare assessment leaders for the colleges that supported their participation. The current ALA cohort has enrolled six assessment leaders from the community college sector. Our conversations with the ALA leaders confirm a strong interest in more participation from community colleges, noting that the mutual sharing with colleagues in the senior college sector enriches all the participants. Those interested in participating in future ALA cohorts will want to research how to achieve this at <https://www.wscuc.org/ala/overview>.

The 2018 Accreditation Conference

ACCJC staff are in active conversation with their WSCUC colleagues about a collaborative engagement with their popular annual conference, the Academic Resource Conference, or ARC. While many details remain to be settled, we strongly suggest marking your calendars for April 25-27, 2018, in Burlingame.

Commission Actions

At its June session, the Commission took a total of 41 institutional actions. Commission action letters are being sent to the institutions at the present time. Information about specific actions will be posted on the ACCJC website after the letters have been received by the institutions. These actions can be found at <http://accjc.org/commission-actions/>

Employment Opportunities

The ACCJC has announced two open positions. For further information, visit <http://accjc.org/employment-opportunities/>.