



Robert M. Anderson
Telephone: (510) 987-9303
Fax: (510) 763-0309
Email: Robert.Anderson@ucop.edu

Chair of the Assembly and the Academic Council
Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

November 1, 2011

RALPH WOLFF, PRESIDENT
WASC SENIOR COLLEGE COMMISSION

Re: UC Academic Senate concerns with proposed revisions to WASC Handbook

Dear Ralph:

Following our recent exchanges by email, I am forwarding to you an official statement of the Academic Council of the Academic Senate of the University of California summarizing our concerns regarding some of the changes in the accreditation process contained in the proposed revisions to the Handbook first published in final form on October 12. This statement was developed by the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) and adopted by the Academic Council at its meeting on October 26, 2011.

The Senate of the University of California understands and supports the need for institutional accreditation, and commends WASC in striving for increased efficacy and efficiency in the accreditation process.

The Senate, however, believes that the enormous variance in the institutions being accredited by WASC prevents the use of common measuring rubrics without it leading to a degradation of the value of the accreditation process. We therefore urge the Commission to maintain its tradition of local determination and assessment of institutional learning goals, provided they constitute an unbiased process consistent with WASC Standard 2. Refinements in assessment processes must build on the work the institutions have already done in creating accountability frameworks.

The Senate supports WASC's intention to make the implementation of any accreditation process transparent. We strongly urge WASC to include UC faculty and administrative leaders in the implementation process.

These concerns underlie our request that at its meeting this week the Commission will not act on those parts of the proposed revision that prescribe new metrics for cross-institutional assessments,

including external validation and abstract metrics such as those proposed by the DQP. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Senate's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", is centered below the word "Sincerely,".

Robert M. Anderson

Cc: Council Vice Chair Powell
Provost Pitts
Academic Council
Executive Director Winnacker