

REVISED 12/16/08

December 9, 2008

VICE CHANCELLOR MICHAEL P. CLARK

RE: SENATE REVIEW OF WASC CRITERIA FOR REVIEW (CFR)

At its meeting of December 2, 2008, the Senate Cabinet reviewed the draft document related to the preparation of the first stage of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation review.

The document was reviewed by the Council on Educational Policy, Graduate Council, the Council on Planning and Budget, and the Council on Student Experience. The Academic Program Review Board (APRB) deferred its review pending the Cabinet's discussion. The Graduate Council and CEP agreed that APRB should develop a plan on how the criteria might be incorporated into the program review process to examine academic units on similar issues as those addressed by WASC. Such a plan prepared by APRB will then be reviewed by CEP, the Graduate Council, and the Senate Cabinet.

In addition, the following suggestions were provided:

- In order for learning standards and outcomes to be successfully assessed by WASC, UCI needs to have an explicit Mission Statement that is easy to find on several UCI websites, including the Chancellor's website.
- Criteria 2.3-2.6: With regard to WASC Learning Outcomes, individual departments need to define and promote learning outcomes for majors. The strategic plans for learning outcomes of each major, department and School should be tied into UCI's Mission Statement. Currently the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) is assisting departments with design of mission statements and learning outcomes that conform to WASC standards. Adequate resources to properly complete this task should be considered.
- Criterion 3.1: One relevant measure of sufficient personnel is the ratio of students to faculty. Data on this ratio are provided in Section 7.6 of the UC Accountability Framework. CPB observes that, over the last five years, UC Irvine has had a ratio of about 23, the second worst of the UC system, and well above the UCLA ratio of about 16 or the UC Berkeley ratio of about 17.5. With UCI's significant over-enrollment that is not fully funded by the UC system for the 2008–2009 academic year, it is likely that UC Irvine now has the worst ratio in the UC system. Given these facts, it may be difficult to make a persuasive argument that UCI employs personnel sufficient in number to support its academic programs.
- Criterion 3.5: UC Irvine sees substantial financial uncertainties, including considerable midyear declines in revenue, as a result of deficits in the California state budget.
- Criterion 1.4 concerns whether "The institution publicly states its commitment to academic freedom for faculty, staff, and students, and acts accordingly. This commitment affirms that

those in the academy are free to share their convictions and responsible conclusions with their colleagues and students in their teaching and in their writing.” The Cabinet agreed that the recent legal case involving Professor Juan Hong has been widely interpreted, correctly or not, as an important stance by UC Counsel against academic freedom for its faculty.

CEP had some very detailed comments on wording which I attach on a separate page. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jutta Heckhausen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jutta Heckhausen, Senate Chair

Attachment

C: EVC and Provost Michael Gottfredson
Derek Dunn-Rankin, Chair, Academic Program Review Board