



NEWS RELEASE

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Accrediting Commission reform bill on governor's desk

Revelation about ACCJC overruling site team recommendation underscores need

The heat is on the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)—again.

Over the weekend, the [Los Angeles Times revealed](#) that the commission “that moved last year to revoke the accreditation of City College of San Francisco has admitted in a court filing that all 15 members of its evaluation team recommended a less punitive sanction.” The ACCJC’s evaluation team unanimously recommended probation for City College of San Francisco, not the harsher and unprecedented “show cause” status imposed by the commission threatening to revoke the school’s accreditation.

This means that if the black box decision-making of the Commission had taken place in public, everyone would have known the ACCJC was overruling its own team’s unanimous recommendation for the lesser sanction, and it would have proven far more difficult for the agency to force its unwarranted, unfair, and illegal closure order on the college. City College is only open today due to an injunction granted by San Francisco Superior Court judge Curtis Karnow. Karnow imposed the injunction pending the trial set to begin in October of a suit brought by San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera against the ACCJC, charging it with political bias in the closure decision.

Not coincidentally, Assembly Bill 1942, passed unanimously last week by the state Legislature, will mandate more transparency and accountability from the ACCJC by requiring biannual reports of policy changes and other specific reporting to the Legislature. “It is a step in the right direction for more transparency in the notoriously secretive agency, and signals that previously hands-off legislators understand that they need to monitor the commission more closely,” CFT President Joshua Pechthalt wrote in [an opinion piece published Wednesday](#) in the *Sacramento Bee*. Pechthalt urged Governor Jerry Brown to sign AB 1942, and that City College’s elected board of trustees be restored to office.

Signaling that AB 1942 is only a start, the CFT president added that “Next year, California’s elected officials can build on this beginning to reform community college accreditation practices so that schools can concentrate less on responding to the commission’s destructive dictates and more on the mission of educating the people of California.”

For more information or to arrange interviews with CFT leadership regarding accreditation reform and City College’s fight to stay open, contact **Fred Glass at 510-579-3343** or fglass@cft.org.

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The CFT represents over 25,000 faculty in thirty community college districts, and 120,000 educational employees at every level of the education system, from Head Start to UC. More info: www.cft.org