

June 25, 2014

Brice Harris, Chancellor
California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street, #4
Sacramento, CA 95811

Manuel Baca, President
Board of Governors
California Community Colleges
1102 Q Street, #4
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Chancellor Harris and President Baca:

I am writing you regarding the recent decision of the Appeals Panel of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (“ACCJC”) rejecting City College of San Francisco’s (CCSF) argument that it should not be disaccredited, while at the same time offering the College further “review” of evidence provided to the Appeals Panel.

While there has been quite a bit of jockeying about the meaning of the appellate decision and whether or not the ACCJC’s appeals process on City College was a win or a loss for either party, too little attention has been focused on whether or not the process itself was appropriate. We have determined, definitively, that it was not. Attached to this letter is the California Federation of Teacher’s (CFT) analysis of the Appeals Panel decision, which proves the decision should be abrogated, as explained in the attachment.

The Panel’s decision is intended to immunize the ACCJC from the consequences of its wrongdoing. In remanding the issue of recent

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compliance with standards back to the Commission, CCSF once again faces the uncertainty of the inconsistent and unfair ACCJC's processes.

Simply put, the Panel's decision upholds actions that are unlawful and unfair, actions the US Department of Education (DoE) already concluded violate its standards.

The attached detailed analysis refutes each one of the panel's determinations and discusses the extensive conflicts of interest of the panel's chair William McGinnis as well as the conflicts of panel members Joseph Richey and Margaret Tillery. These conflicts call into question their impartiality.

The fact that ACCJC's conflicts of interest continued into the appellate panel is significant because such behavior has been persistent in the Commission's dealings.

Given the deceitful nature of the Hearing Panel's determinations and the irrefutable actual or apparent conflicts of interest that the Panel's membership carries with them, it is evident that the ACCJC had no intention of giving CCSF a fair hearing or evaluation on its merits.

The Panel concludes that in reviewing additional evidence for evaluation, "the Commission need not follow the express requirements or procedures which govern its routine evaluations...but may, within its sole discretion, develop a format and methodology for this task...." What is needed is a new, fair evaluation, one free from conflicts of interest and predeterminations of noncompliance. CCSF has yet to have such an evaluation, and the faulty appeals decision is simply further illustration that the college cannot expect one.

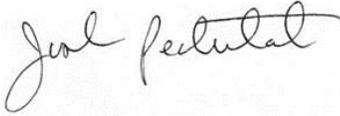
ACCJC's flagrant disregard for the regulations governing its mandate, its own policies, and legal principles of fair procedure evince an incompetency or improper motive. These warrant the US Department of Education ceasing to recognize the ACCJC as a reliable accrediting body. Further, they require the rescission of CCSF's disaccredited and show cause status, unbiased and fair reevaluation of CCSF and then a justified reaffirmation of its accredited status.

Given your stewardship of the affairs of City College of San Francisco and California's community colleges, we urge that you seek immediate guidance from the US DOE as to what recourse an institution has when a regional accreditor effectively denies adequate right of appeal by a sanctioned institution of an accreditation termination order. This may well

include filing complaints with the Department, ACCJC or in court.

Thank you for your timely efforts on behalf of San Francisco's Community College students, staff and faculty.

Sincerely,



Joshua Pechthalt
President, California Federation of Teachers

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CC: Arthur Tyler, Chancellor City College of San Francisco
Hon. Edmund G. Brown, Governor
Hon. Nancy Pelosi, US Representative
Hon. Jackie Speier, US Representative
Hon. Anna Eshoo, US Representative
Hon. Darryl Steinberg, Pro Tem CA State Senate
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