

## **ATTACHMENT C (Action Item 2-3-14)**

### **RESOLUTION FOR EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT PROCESSES BY ACCJC**

Whereas, the U.S. system of regional peer-review accreditation has been well-established and provided essential guarantees of quality in America's post-secondary institutions since the 1950's; and

Whereas, keys to the overall success of this unique system are a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect between the regional commissions and their member institutions and a shared focus on the needs and interests of the students who attend these institutions; and

Whereas, the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges has expressed various concerns with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) regarding faculty participation and representation on the Commission's committees and on on-site evaluation teams through a variety of means, including resolutions passed by the body, concerns expressed to the California Community College Chancellor's Office, and the Board of Governors, and letters sent by the Academic Senate to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE)

Whereas, the Western region is the only one of the six accrediting regions of the U.S. where a separate commission exists for the purpose of accrediting two-year institutions rather than having a single commission accredit both two-year and four-year institutions; and

Whereas, the current troubled nature of the relationship between ACCJC and some of its member institutions is manifested in multiple ways, including the following:

- The extraordinary frequency and severity of sanctions levied by ACCJC against California community colleges compared to sanction levels and types seen in other regions and in four-year institutions accredited by WASC-Senior
- Articles and complaints prepared and approved by organizations such as the Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers, the Community College Association of the California Teachers Association, the California Community College Independents, and the Faculty Association of the California Community Colleges
- The creation of two separate Task Forces by two different State Chancellors in order to grapple with the issues surrounding the accreditation of the system's colleges
- ACCJC's announcements in July 2012 and July 2013, of its action first to place CCSF on "Show Cause" and then to deny accreditation to CCSF, effective July 2014 without offering adequate resources to make improvements, actions which have created an unprecedented public relations, enrollment and financial crisis for that institution, threatening its very existence as the only public community college in the City and County of San Francisco, despite widespread support for the college from the people of San Francisco

Resolved, That the Academic Senate of Grossmont College hereby expresses its deep concern over the nature of relationships between ACCJC and some of California's community colleges; and

Resolved, That Grossmont College urges the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges to model and exemplify for its member institutions effective and transparent self-evaluation practices by acknowledging and addressing any areas of non-compliance identified in evaluations by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) Accreditation Group and the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Improvement (NACIQI), and to document and make public what steps it will take to address any areas of non-compliance.