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**Thursday, Aug. 6, 2015**

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## **Accrediting Commission Again Denies Due Process**

*Commission Fails to Consider Evidence Presented by City College of San Francisco*

Sacramento – Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) again failed to provide due process when it announced yesterday, Aug. 5, that it had summarily rejected City College of San Francisco's request for reconsideration of ACCJC's flawed 2013 sanction discrediting the college.

"This latest action by the ACCJC clearly demonstrates it is unqualified to serve as an accreditor of California's public community colleges," said California Federation of Teachers President Joshua Pechthalt.

California Superior Court Judge Curtis Karnow ruled earlier this year that the ACCJC had violated both state law and federal regulations and needed to provide CCSF with the due process it was denied. The judge ordered the commission to reconsider its earlier misguided decision.

ACCJC's action comes despite the evidence compiled by hundreds of City College employees and students responding to the trial judge's finding that ACCJC had failed to give City College notice of 11 new "deficiencies" not found by the ACCJC-appointed team, which visited City College in Spring 2013. The team had recommended a lesser sanction.

"City College did its part and answered ACCJC's notice with extensive evidence and arguments. Yet, in its reply, the ACCJC does not make any effort to reconcile the response of the College to the initial explanation by the Commission," said President Pechthalt. In spite of this action by the ACCJC, City College remains open and accredited pending a decision in January of 2017 after further evaluation.

City College of San Francisco faculty union AFT 2121 President Tim Killikelly also criticized the ACCJC's decision saying: "Yesterday's predictably unfair decision again violates the college's due process and highlights the need for serious accreditation reform in California. Something needs to be done about the ACCJC."

A bill from Assemblymember Phil Ting (AB 1397) will impose new standards for accountability and transparency in accreditation. The bill passed the Assembly and is advancing in the State Senate with bipartisan support.

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