

Board of Governors
November 15, 2015

Introduction – *To the distinguished members of the Board of Governors I'm Dr. Anthony Culpepper, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services at Bakersfield College. On behalf of the President, Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administration at Bakersfield College, thank you for the opportunity to address you today.*

Having the honor of being an evaluator for WASC and ACCJC; I have developed a perspective about accreditation that allows me to appreciate how the application of those standards affects the environment in which they are implemented.

The sentiment of moving away from ACCJC to WASC because the former is to compliance oriented and the latter is more collegial misses the opportunity to understand that compliance and collegiality are two sides of the same coin.

I caution all; that to make such a move so quickly without comprehensive engagement and dialogue to gain a better understanding of the whys and why nots could prove detrimental to both those who must uphold the standards (the accrediting body) and those who must adhere to the standards (the institutions). The old English proverb comes to mind "Measure twice cut once".

The Bakersfield College Academic Senate, College Council, and the Accreditation & Institutional Quality committee (AIQ), with classified, faculty, and administrative membership, studied the 2015 Accreditation Task Force report from the CCC Chancellor's office. This study led to the AIQ reaching a unanimous decision to not support the Accreditation Task Force decision. The AIQ determined that the Task Force report does not accurately reflect Bakersfield College's experience with the accreditation process and the ACCJC. Bakersfield College has had regular and multiple opportunities to respond to ACCJC proposed policy changes and proposed standards changes directly to the Commission and through the Academic Senate; however, in this instance Bakersfield College had no opportunity to respond to the work of the Task Force at any time during the process of researching and developing the report. It is the opinion of the constituency at Bakersfield college that the 2015 Accreditation Task Force report inaccurately claims that "The California Community College system and its member institutions have lost confidence in the ACCJC",

This is a grave and serious matter. All diligence and care should be extended before a decision is made to move to another accreditation institution.

Therefore, the College Council of Bakersfield College strongly recommends that the Board of Governors allow for collaborative discussion and dialogue of all constituents involved in this matter before considering the option to move to another accreditation institution.