



May 20, 2014

Dr. Sherrill Amador, Chair  
The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges  
Western Association of Schools and Colleges  
10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite 204  
Novato, CA 94949

Dear Dr. Amador:

I am writing today on behalf of the Board of Governors (BOG) to respectfully request that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) rescind their termination of accreditation of City College of San Francisco. We make this request based on our belief that the college is now in substantial compliance with the accreditation standards, and we encourage the Commission to send a visiting team to the college to document that progress.

You will recall that the BOG originally placed a special trustee in the college in November of 2012, and elevated that trustee to replace the elected board in July of last year. We took both these actions in consultation with ACCJC and in support of the Commission's growing concerns about the college. At the time we intervened to elevate the trustee and remove the authority of the locally elected board, we did so with the strong encouragement of ACCJC and with the Commission's assurances that there was a pathway to restoration of the accreditation of the college. The BOG certainly knew that dramatic and substantial changes were needed in the college, but we would never have undertaken the job if there were no chance of fully restoring accreditation.

College and Chancellor's Office staff, under the direction of the BOG, are now ten months into the recovery process and tremendous progress has been made. The college's finances are sound and sustainable, student learning outcomes are in place for all courses, the management team is completely new and there are no longer interim leaders, collective bargaining agreements have been reached with all unions, program planning and evaluation is operational, and enrollment is stabilizing. During the past year the college has also improved the governance of the institution, taken control of the various costs related to its centers, and enhanced its outreach and support in the community. Most recently, the climate in the college has become much more positive and some of the public controversy that marked the early part of our involvement has subsided. Frankly, the amount of improvement in the institution in less than one year is remarkable.

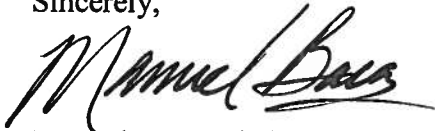
There are still changes the college must complete. The time necessary for a full cycle of planning, implementation, evaluation and revision will take several more months. The finalization of the management and governance changes needs to be completed and the institution will ultimately be turned back to a renewed locally elected Board of Trustees.

However, the action taken by the Commission last July was the catalyst the college needed to make substantial and lasting change. ACCJC's actions have had the desired result – the college has significantly changed for the better thanks to the sanctions. As a result of these changes, it is now time for the college to be removed from the threat of loss of accreditation so that it can complete the restoration process.

We are aware that ACCJC is concerned about the impact that reversing their termination decision could have on their own authorization from the US Department of Education (USDOE). However, in both their public statements, and in our direct conversations with the USDOE they continue to suggest that the Commission has the power to make this decision without it negatively impacting their relationship with the department.

CCSF is a vital institution to the thousands of students who have no other educational option. The college has heard the Commission loud and clear and made substantial and lasting changes accordingly. We implore you to capitalize on that improvement, verify the progress that has been made, and rescind the termination so that ACCJC will again demonstrate the positive impact it can have on a struggling institution.

Sincerely,



Manuel Baca, Chair

Board of Governors of California Community Colleges

Cc: Dr. Barbara Beno, President of the Commissioners of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Commissioners of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges  
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Members of the California Community College Board of Governors