

Press Release:

3:00 p.m. July 6, 2012. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC), 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949; 415-506-0234; accjc@accjc.org.

Representatives of City College of San Francisco (CCSF) participated today in *Forum: City College of San Francisco in Jeopardy?* a program of KQED, a National Public Radio station serving northern California. In that program, comments by CCSF representatives were made which may cause public misunderstanding about the accredited status of the institution and conditions found there. This press release is issued to provide members of the public with correct information concerning these matters.

The U.S. Department of Education charges its recognized accreditation agencies, including the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), with the responsibility to inform the public if the contents of reports or the accredited status of an institution are misrepresented. In their remarks, the KQED *Forum* program guests in their official capacity as representatives of CCSF stated incorrectly the ACCJC in its recent comprehensive evaluation of CCSF found there were no issues with instruction and services provided for students. The representatives also maintained the ACCJC noted favorably that CCSF had directed all of its focus on serving students. Further, the representatives indicated the level of sanction was not unlike sanctions given to a large number of other colleges in the region by the ACCJC.

The ACCJC evaluation team visited CCSF March 12 through March 15, 2012, after first reviewing the documentary evidence and Self Evaluation Report prepared by CCSF. The evaluation team findings, some of which were first identified as long as ten years ago, include the need for systematic instructional planning, provision of student and library services, and an urgency to undertake program review for all courses, programs, and support services to report and improve student success and strengthen institutional effectiveness. Student learning outcomes for courses, programs, degrees and certificates must be developed and regularly assessed in order to align college practices toward continuous improvement. Student services must be assessed to ensure services are prioritized and expanded to support students, regardless of college location. Faculty evaluation must include a component addressing participation in student learning outcomes assessment. Additional recommendations address administrative capacity, staffing, facilities and equipment utilization and planning, stewardship of fiscal resources including the need for adequate reserve funds, improving decision-making, and governance structures and governing board operations.

In its evaluation report, the team found CCSF failed to demonstrate that it meets the requirements outlined in a significant number of ACCJC Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards. CCSF had also failed to implement the eight recommendations of the 2006 evaluation team; five of those eight were only partially addressed, and three were completely unaddressed. Under U.S. Department of Education regulations, institutions are expected to resolve noted deficiencies within a two-year period or the ACCJC must take action to terminate accreditation. At its June 6-8, 2012 meeting the Accrediting Commission acted to

order Show Cause for CCSF, permitting a final period of time for resolution of recommendations and to fully meet the Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards.

The Accrediting Commission took action on 45 institutions at its June 2012 meeting. CCSF was the sole institution to receive an order of Show Cause. This is the most severe sanction of the ACCJC short of terminating an institution's accreditation. Show Cause is ordered when the Accrediting Commission finds an institution in substantial non-compliance with the Commission's Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies, or when the institution has not responded to the conditions imposed by the Accrediting Commission. City College of San Francisco must show cause why its accreditation should not be withdrawn by the Accrediting Commission at its June 2013 Commission meeting, demonstrate that it has corrected the deficiencies noted by the Commission, and is in compliance with the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies. The burden of proof rests on the institution to demonstrate why its accreditation should be continued.

The detailed Evaluation Report describing the findings, analysis and conclusions of the 2012 CCSF evaluation team, and the ACCJC Action Letter to Dr. Pamela Fisher, Interim Chancellor of CCSF, have been posted on the www.accjc.org website, in the Directory of Accredited Institutions at the City College of San Francisco entry. The report and letter detail deficiencies in instructional practices, student services practices, administrative capacity, and resource management.

Questions can be addressed to: Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC), 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949; 415-506-0234; accjc@accjc.org. Information about the accreditation process, the accredited status of institutions, and documents pertaining to City College of San Francisco can be accessed at www.accjc.org.