



December 6, 2005

Andrew Grosovsky
Vice Provost, Undergraduate Academic Programs
Professor of Cell Biology
UC Riverside
Office of Undergraduate Studies
1657 Statistics C
Riverside, CA 92521

Dear Andrew:

At its November 30, 2005 meeting, a Panel of the Proposal Review Committee considered the institutional proposal submitted by the University of California, Riverside for its next reaffirmation of accreditation review. The members of the Panel asked me to express their appreciation for your participation in the telephone conference call, and for that of your colleagues Ellen Wartella, EVC/Provost; Susan Carter, Faculty Co-chair of the Steering Committee; Yolanda Moses, Vice Provost and Administrative Co-chair of the Steering Committee; Timothy Paine, Faculty Co-chair of the Subcommittee on Educational Effectiveness; Steven Brint, Faculty Co-chair of the Subcommittee on Institutional Capacity; and Robert Gill, Special Consultant to the Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost. We regret that the difficulties with the telephone made it hard for us to hear one another, but we appreciated the opportunity to interact with this broad group of campus leaders whom you had gathered. Their answers to questions and their elaborations on the Proposal were helpful to panel members' understanding of the context and plans for the review.

As indicated in my November 30, 2005 email to you, the Committee acted to accept the UCR Proposal. The Proposal sets forth a design for the review that effectively addresses University priorities, goals, and strategies within the context of the WASC Standards and review process. The identified outcomes for the review appear substantive, cross-cutting, and in alignment with Chancellor Cordova's seven goals for the campus.

The Panel commended the selection of educational effectiveness themes that are appropriate for UCR and important for the University of California and higher education. The theme of *Learning within a Campus Culture of Diversity* includes an impressive array of research questions that clearly link

985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100
Alameda, CA 94501
PHONE: 510.748.9001
FAX: 510.748.9797
E-MAIL: wascst@wascsenior.org
INTERNET: www.wascweb.org

CHAIR
John D. Welty, Chair
California State University, Fresno

VICE CHAIR
Sherwood G. Lingenfelter, Vice Chair
Fuller Theological Seminary

Dede Alpert
Public Member

James R. Appleton
University of Redlands

Lisa Marie Beardsley
Loma Linda University

Mark Bookman
University of Judaism

W. Bernard Bowler
Public Member

Barbara Cambridge
Carnegie Academy and N.C.T.E.

Jerry Dean Campbell
University of Southern California

Kenyon S. Chan
Occidental College

Aimee Dorr
University of California, Los Angeles

Laurence Gould
Public Member

James E. Lyons, Sr.
*California State University,
Dominguez Hills*

Christina Maslach
University of California, Berkeley

Tomás Morales
*California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona*

Thomas H. Robinson
School's Commission Representative

Martha C. Romero
*Community and Junior Colleges
Commission Representative*

Eleanor Dantzer Siebert
Alumni St. Mary's College

Mary Kay Tetreault
Portland State University

Laura Trombley
Pitzer College

Sue Wesselkamper
Chaminade University of Honolulu

STAFF
Ralph A. Wolff
Executive Director

Elizabeth Griego
Associate Director

Neil Hoffman
Associate Director

Richard A. Winn
Associate Director

Barbara Wright
Associate Director

Christie Jones
*Assistant Director for Research
and Substantive Change*

Lee West
*Assistant Director for
Commission Support*

Robert R. Benedetti
Adjunct Associate Director

Richard C. Giardina
Adjunct Associate Director

Bill Gong
Finance & Operations Manager

diversity and academic excellence in the context of a research university setting. The Panel further commended the University's intention in themes two and three to develop program-level and institution-wide learning outcomes and the means of assessing them at the undergraduate and graduate levels. All three themes are in alignment with WASC's emphasis on learning centeredness, and all three represent significant and consequential areas of inquiry for the campus over the next five years and beyond. The Panel appreciated the care, evident thoughtfulness, and spirit of collaboration with which the UCR leadership has developed the Proposal.

As we discussed in the conference call, however, there was some concern that the Proposal may be overly ambitious precisely because the themes are so encompassing and far reaching. It was reassuring to hear strong support for the Proposal from Provost Wartella and to understand that the reaffirmation of accreditation process is viewed as crucial to helping create a culture change at UCR that is to be centered on developing evidence of student learning and achievement. The Panel cautions the University that it will be important to plan carefully for how best to support faculty with appropriate coaching and resources for assessment as you develop program outcomes and assessment processes related to the three themes for the review.

A strong organizing effort is ahead. Effective internal communication and continuing leadership support will be crucial to a successful review. The Panel recommended that additional thought be given to the workplan for conducting the review. The Institutional Capacity and Educational Effectiveness Subcommittees will need to work closely together so that the overall review process is coordinated to address the themes and outcomes. The University will need to be strategic about how it will organize, oversee, and support these two committees, along with the other standing and ad hoc groups that will be involved in the review process during its several stages. While the inquiry methodology for each theme is outlined in the Proposal, a much more detailed plan and timeline will need to be developed for each of the three themes that assigns responsibilities and specifies targeted outcomes for each theme. There has been a good start from the partnering of faculty and administrative leaders in the development of the Proposal, but further thought will need to be given to integrating the review with ongoing faculty senate and administrative structures, committees, and processes to streamline efforts, increase the long-term value of the work, and adopt the new processes.

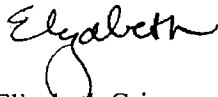
As you know, at its June meeting, the Commission reviewed comments from institutions on the timing between the Capacity & Preparatory and the Educational Effectiveness Reviews and has now made the normative schedule between visits to be 18 months. Therefore, the Capacity & Preparatory Review will be conducted in spring 2008 followed by the Educational Effectiveness Review in fall 2009. The Proposal as approved now becomes the framework for the accreditation review process and represents a plan of action and commitment by the institution. The Proposal will be distributed to visiting teams for both the Capacity & Preparatory Review and the Educational Effectiveness Review, and with the Commission following each Review. The data tables and relevant material are to be updated and included as part of the Capacity and Preparatory Review presentation. It is understood that adjustments in the activities undertaken as outlined in the Proposal will be made as implementation occurs. Major changes to the Proposal,

Andrew Grosovsky
December 6, 2005
Page 3

such as a change in theme or in major focus of activities for the accreditation process, are to be approved in advance by Commission staff.

Congratulations on the acceptance of your Proposal. I look forward to working with you and the UCR community as you prepare for the review. Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of any assistance along the way.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Griego
Associate Director

Cc: Frances Cordova, Chancellor
Proposal Review Committee
Ralph A. Wolff