

Statement of the Academic Senate Governing Council, College of San Mateo,
Regarding the Accrediting Commission for California Community and Junior Colleges
and City College of San Francisco
November 2013

The Academic Senate Governing Council of College of San Mateo finds unacceptable the decision of the Accrediting Commission for California Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) to force the closure of City College of San Francisco (CCSF) by rescinding CCSF's accreditation.

The deficiencies cited by ACCJC in its accreditation report were primarily related to administrative and operational functions, and CCSF has made substantial improvements in these areas. The quality of education furnished by CCSF was never at issue. ACCJC identifies no problems in instruction or learning at CCSF, which is CCSF's fundamental mission.

Thus, the closure of CCSF is not justified; it will leave tens of thousands of students without viable or affordable educational options; it will also leave hundreds of faculty and staff without employment. No good can come from this.

We support our Chancellor, Ron Galatolo, who has recently articulated the troubled nature of the relationship between ACCJC and many of its member institutions, including the extraordinary frequency and severity of sanctions levied by ACCJC against California community colleges compared to sanction levels and types seen in other regions of the United States.

We likewise support the United States Department of Education in its review of whether ACCJC is following nationally-accepted norms and standards of accreditations and sanctions.

And we support the recently passed resolution of the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (2.04), calling for ACCJC to make a clear distinction in its reporting between "action required" and "recommendation."

We urge ACCJC to preserve CCSF's accreditation; to focus on the needs and interests of students; to aspire to fairness and accountability; and to foster a more collaborative and respectful spirit in its work with California community colleges.