

From: Shewfelt, Olga

Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2015 12:44 PM

To: Taylor, Alice; Aguiar, Aracely; Foster, Adrienne A.; Ingram, Iris I.; Goltermann, Michael J.; Davillier, Kimberly D.; Tillberg, Rebecca W.; Sprague, Robert L.; Sander, Nancy; Taira, Kenneth M.; Stapleton, Buck; Apigo, Mary-Jo J.; Lin, Ken; Trujillo, Susan; Viramontes, Angel; Tsai, Hansel; Manner, Kimberly E.; Considine, Kevin; Patriarca, Lorraine K.; Butler, Marcus; Dang, Nick; Menendez, Rasel M.; Leonard, Frances T.; Simpson, Antoinette; Smith, William D.

Cc: Alcalá, Celena; Gallegos, Dolores; Leonard, Frances T.

Subject: RE: Accreditation Steering Committee Nov. 3

Importance: High

Alice et al,

First, I want to thank you and all who have worked on the self-study. It is a great deal of work. Work that has been made more difficult with the many changes made by the ACCJC.

I have read the draft report twice (I hope to be done with Draft 3 of Standard 1 this weekend).

I am writing to both acknowledge the work done by so many on this self-study and to bring up an issue that has been discussed before at the Steering Committee and the College Council. The issue is our mission statement and whether we meet the standard.

I am bringing the issue at this eleventh hour with the purpose to get clarification from those who have been more involved in the writing of the self-study and also with the hope that perhaps there is time to change the current choice that we have made regarding this standard.

If I understand correctly, our current mission statement does not meet the ACCJC standard. Our current mission statement last paragraph states: "A West education enriches students with the knowledge and skills needed to earn certificates and degrees, to transfer, to build careers and to pursue life-long learning."

The self-study acknowledges this and states: "While the College mission statement describes the institution's broad educational purposes, its intended student population, and its commitment to student learning and student achievement, **the mission does not specify the degrees and certificates West offers.**" (my highlighting).

I find that this statement may potentially work against our Accreditation. We are acknowledging that we do not meet the standard and then we go to explain why: Waiting for the approval of the substantive change regarding our college's ability to offer the Dental Hygiene Bachelor's degree.

Here are other reasons why this statement may impact us negatively:

1) The Accreditation self-study is about narrating and evaluating our current mission statement, not about doing this in regards to the future. In this case, a future change in the degrees that we can offer.

2) The mission of the college drives the entire Master Education Plan, planning, budget and operations of the college. This is the cornerstone of our self-evaluation. It seems to me that if do not meet Standard I insofar as the college mission is concerned, this may have a domino effect on the other standards.

I would like to propose to change the current mission statement to meet the Standard 1 by adding two

words (in red):

"A West education enriches students with the knowledge and skills needed to earn **career** certificates and **associate** degrees, to transfer, to build careers and to pursue life-long learning."

Tomorrow the College Council meets and we can bring this urgent matter to the attention of the Council. We have discussed the matter before and I am sure that most would support this change that would enable us to meet the standard.

If nothing else, we should have this discussion in the Council tomorrow. It would be great for our college to support either the current writing in the self-study regarding this central aspect of the mission statement, or to make the necessary changes to meet the standard.

Once again, I value and support the great work done by my colleagues in this difficult and ever-changing accreditation environment, and hope that my thoughts are spoken while we still have time to make any changes we may consider important.

Thank you all,

Olga Shewfelt