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PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ralph A. Wolff

March 3, 2010

Fernando Leon Garcia
President
CETYS University
P. O. Box 2808
Calexico, CA 92231

Dear President Leon:

At its meeting on February 17-19, 2010, the Commission considered the report of the visiting team that conducted the Capacity and Preparatory Review (CPR) visit to CETYS University (CETYS) on October 21-23, 2009. The Commission also had access to the Capacity and Preparatory Review report prepared by CETYS prior to the visit, and the institution's December 22, 2009 response to the visiting team's report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and ALO Laura Carrillo. Your observations were very helpful.

As required for initial accreditation CPR visits, CETYS took a comprehensive approach to the review process, focusing on the four Standards of Accreditation. The July 21, 2008 Commission action letter also highlighted three areas for special attention at the CPR visit: improving doctoral education, building library resources and information literacy as central elements of CETYS, and continuing the institutionalization of student learning outcomes assessment.

The Commission commended CETYS for "the resolve, speed and alacrity with which CETYS has directed its talents and resources to meeting WASC standards and addressing its concerns." In noting the educational differences between the two countries, it concurred with the team's assessment that "CETYS' achievements these past few years are nothing short of remarkable."

At each stage of this process, CETYS has openly embraced each recommendation and found solutions to Commission concerns. Many consultants have been brought to campus over the last two years to help guide CETYS with faculty training workshops and library development, and formal relationships have been established with other higher education institutions around the world to strengthen the university's growing emphasis on internationalization. Faculty and staff from CETYS have furthered their training by attending WASC's annual Academic Resource Conference, by participating in the American Council for Education administrative fellowship program, and working on graduate library science degrees in the United States. Two new buildings have been built to meet WASC Standards, including an impressive new building for graduate studies in Tijuana and a modern information and learning center at the Ensenada campus.

One of the most impressive accomplishments has been the development of a strong learning assessment plan with clear student learning objectives, backed up by rubrics and assessment tools, for every program and course. As noted by the team, “[t]he faculty, students and the course syllabi all consistently reflect the implementation of the assessment plan.” (CFR 2.2)

The Commission likewise endorsed the recommendations of the CPR team and wished to emphasize the importance of continued attention to all of the issues raised on pp. 32-35 of the team report. In particular, the Commission noted the need for continued attention to the following issues.

Greater Faculty Involvement in Planning and Governance. Several of the team’s recommendations urged defining in more precise terms how the faculty could become more involved in such areas as strategic planning and institutional governance. The team also noted the need for the Academic Council to assume a larger role in academic planning and assessment, and recommended greater responsibility by the faculty for curriculum development and peer review. (CFRs 1.3, 3.11, 4.1) The response from CETYS indicates that faculty are continuing to assume more responsibility but that more work can be done before the next visit. The Commission supports that commitment and recognizes that with the completion of the most recent strategic plan, the new president of CETYS has an opportunity to build many of the team’s recommendations, including those dealing with greater faculty involvement, into the *CETYS Plan 2020*. (CFRs 4.1, 4.2)

Continued Hiring of Well Qualified Faculty. Many of the faculty members at CETYS hold graduate degrees from the same institution, which can lead to too narrow a perspective in curriculum design and faculty work. The Commission encourages CETYS to continue its plans to hire additional well qualified faculty, and to follow through on contracts offered to those receiving terminal degrees in other institutions. As additional well qualified faculty are hired, CETYS can begin to foster an even greater culture of research and scholarship, as required in an institution offering advanced degrees. (CFRs 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4)

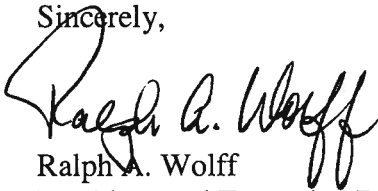
The Commission acted to:

1. Receive the Capacity and Preparatory Review report of CETYS University.
2. Proceed with the scheduled Educational Effectiveness Review visit in fall 2011. The Institutional Report will be due 12 weeks prior to the scheduled visit.
3. Request that the institution incorporate its response to the issues raised in this action letter and to the major recommendations of the CPR team report into its Educational Effectiveness Review report. You may include this analysis in an appendix to your Educational Effectiveness report or incorporate it into the report.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of CETYS’ governing board in one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be widely disseminated throughout the institution to promote further engagement and improvement, and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in them.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that the University undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. WASC is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while assuring public accountability, and we are grateful for your continued support of our process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Wolff
President and Executive Director

RW/ro

Cc: Sherwood Lingenfelter, Commission Chair
Laura Carrillo de Anda, ALO
Juan Ignacio Guajardo, Board Chair
Members of the CPR team
Richard Osborn