



December 9, 2005

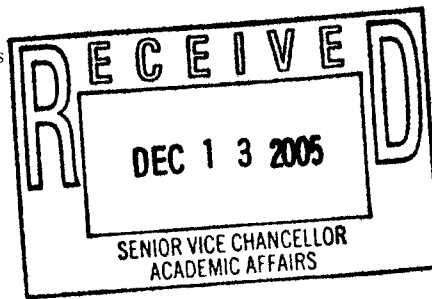
Mark I. Appelbaum
Associate Vice Chancellor, Undergraduate Education
University of California, San Diego
University Center (UCTR) - 0001
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La Jolla, CA 92093

Dear Mark:

At its November 29, 2005 meeting, a panel of the Proposal Review Committee considered the Institutional Proposal submitted by the University of California, San Diego for its next Reaffirmation of Accreditation review. Members of the Panel appreciated your participation in the conference call along with those of your colleagues: Marye Anne Fox, Chancellor; Marsha A. Chandler, Senior Vice Chancellor-Academic Affairs; Donald Tuzin, Professor, Dept. of Anthropology; Academic Senate Chair and Steven Adler, Professor, Dept. of Theatre and Dance; Provost, Earl Warren College. The responses to the questions were extremely helpful in assisting the panel to understand the University's context and the approach planned for UCSD's next comprehensive accreditation review.

As indicated in my November 30, 2005 email to you, the panel acted to accept the proposal. The panel found the proposal to be very thoughtful, clearly written and responsive to the previous WASC review recommendations. The panel found the themes for the review process appropriate to the challenges and opportunities for UCSD as it continually aspires to be an institution that approaches education as a "culture of continual educational improvement using data-driven analyses." In addition, the panel commended the wide spread involvement of the campus community in the creation of the proposal and the establishment of appropriate and challenging themes for self-improvement. The proposal identifies goals, outcomes and strategies for improvement of student and organizational learning that cut across all aspects of the University. As the University moves forward to identify and assess student learning outcomes through the implementation of the proposal, the panel suggests the University integrate the review of student work into the process. This has been consistently found to be one of the most powerful ways of engaging faculty in a meaningful dialogue about student learning outcomes, standards of performance, and criteria for judgment.

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At its June 2005 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 now becomes the framework for the accreditation review process and represents a plan of action and commitment by the institution. The proposal will be shared with the visiting teams for both the Capacity & Preparatory Review and the Educational Effectiveness Review, and with the Commission following each Review. It is understood that adjustments in the activities undertaken under the Proposal will be made as implementation occurs. Major changes to the proposal, such as in the direction or focus of institutional activities for the accreditation review process, are to be approved in advance by Commission staff.

We wish you well and look forward to working with you on this review cycle and again, congratulations on the acceptance of your outstanding proposal. The UCSD proposal is considered to be exemplary. We would like your permission to identify it as such and post it on our website and use it in our workshops.

Sincerely,



Neil Hoffman
Associate Director

CC: Marye Anne Fox, Chancellor
Proposal Review Committee
Ralph A. Wolff