



June 25, 2008

Marye Ann Fox  
Chancellor  
University of California, San Diego  
9500 Gilman Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0001

Dear Chancellor Fox:

At its meeting on June 18-20, 2008, the Commission considered the report of the team that conducted the Capacity and Preparatory (CPR) visit to the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), on March 12-14, 2008. The Commission also had access to the Capacity and Preparatory Report prepared by UCSD prior to the visit. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with Professor Mark Applebaum, Associate Vice Chancellor Barbara Sawrey, and you. The information and observations provided by you and your colleagues were very helpful.

The university is to be commended on the progress it has made with respect to the issues noted in the previous comprehensive review, particularly the efforts made on behalf of transfer students. In addition, the four themes chosen for this review cycle are congruent with the university's mission and priorities, and lend themselves well to developing measurable outcomes and making meaningful use of the evidence that is collected.

The Commission endorses the findings, commendations, and recommendations of the visiting team. At the same time, it does have some concern about the degree of progress that has been achieved to date with respect to the information literacy initiative and the assessment of student learning outcomes.

The Commission wishes to emphasize the importance of continued attention to the issues of diversity and strategic planning, in addition to the four UCSD-identified themes (freshman and entry-level writing, foreign language instruction, information literacy, and undergraduate program review). In particular, the university should remain mindful of the need to collect evidence concerning outcomes and to demonstrate how the use of these data can inform change. The Commission anticipates that all of these topics will be addressed in the Educational Effectiveness Review (EER) report and expects to see substantial progress in all areas.

The Standards of Accreditation place special emphasis on student learning and on the obligation of institutions to assess and identify ways to improve student learning. All four of the UCSD themes address student learning and the Commission will want to see that infrastructure is in place, course and program-level learning outcomes have

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been formulated, direct and indirect data are being systematically gathered, and results are being used to inform courses and programs as a result of these initiatives.

The Commission noted in the team report that access to certain individuals was not permitted. The Commission will expect that the visiting team will be allowed full access to documents, faculty, staff and students at the time of the Education Effectiveness Review visit.

The Commission acted to:

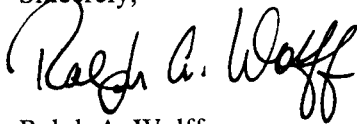
1. Receive the Capacity and Preparatory Review Report and continue the accreditation of the University of California, San Diego.
2. Proceed with the Educational Effectiveness Review currently scheduled for October 14-16, 2009.

In addition, you are expected to prepare a brief analysis of how UCSD meets the expectations established in the recent changes to the Standards and Criteria for Review, which are effective July 1, 2008. These changes can be found on the WASC website at [www.wascenior.org](http://www.wascenior.org). You may include this analysis in an appendix to your EER report.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the Office of the President of the UC system and the Chair of the University of California's Board of Regents within one week. It is the Commission's expectation that the team report and this action letter will be widely disseminated throughout the institution to promote engagement and improvement, and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in the team report.

Please 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/aa

cc: Sherwood Lingenfelter, Commission Chair  
Chair of Board of Regents  
UC Office of the President  
Mark Applebaum  
Members of the Team  
Michelle Behr