

From: Terrance Hall <thall@ccsf.edu>
Subject: Fwd: Kinsella solicitation for ACCJC
Date: October 26, 2013 9:12:21 PM PDT
To: Mary Beth Love <love@sfsu.edu>, Vicki Legion <vlegion@sfsu.edu>

Weekend reading...

Begin forwarded message:

From: <ajahjah@att.net>
Date: October 26, 2013 at 2:44:45 PM PDT
To: Move City College Forward <info@movecitycollegeforward.org>, "info@saveccsf.org" <info@saveccsf.org>, CFT <aft@aft2121.org>, Harris Brice <bharris@CCCCO.edu>, Mayor Ed Lee <mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org>, Hydra Mendoza <Hydra.Mendoza@sfgov.org>, Eric Mar <Eric.L.Mar@sfgov.org>, Mark Farrell <Mark.Farrell@sfgov.org>, David Chiu <David.Chiu@sfgov.org>, Katy Tang <Katy.Tang@sfgov.org>, London Breed <London.Breed@sfgov.org>, Jane Kim <Jane.Kim@sfgov.org>, Norman Yee <Norman.Yee@sfgov.org>, Scott Wiener <Scott.Wiener@sfgov.org>, David Campos <David.Campos@sfgov.org>, Malia Cohen <Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org>, John Avalos <John.Avalos@sfgov.org>, J Rizzo <jrizzo@ccsf.edu>, R Mandelman <rmandelman@ccsf.edu>, R Mandelman <rmandelman@bwsllaw.com>, Chris Jackson <chris.jackson415@gmail.com>, "Steve Ngo" <stevengo@ccsf.edu>, Lawrence Wong <lwong@ccsf.edu>, natalie berg <natalieberg@nkbstrategies.com>, natalie berg <natalieberg_sf@yahoo.com>, Anita Grier <agrier@ccsf.edu>, Shanell Williams <williams.shanell@gmail.com>, Sara Eisenberg <sara.eisenberg@sfgov.org>, Dennis Herrera <cityattorney@sfgov.org>
Subject: Fw: Kinsella solicitation for ACCJC
Reply-To: <ajahjah@att.net>

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "ajahjah@att.net" <ajahjah@att.net>
To: Nanette Asimov <NAsimov@sfchronicle.com>; "edsourc@edsourc.org" <edsourc@edsourc.org>; Chronicles of Higher Ed <editor@chronicle.com>; "editor@insidehighered.com" <editor@insidehighered.com>; Andrea Koskey <akoskey@sfexaminer.com>; Carolyn Tyler <carolyn.tyler@abc.com>; Jon Brooks <jbrooks@kqed.org>; Charla Bear <cbear@kqed.org>; Ana Tintocalis <atintocalis@kqed.org>; "ednet@kqed.org" <ednet@kqed.org>; W Kane <wkane@sfchronicle.com>; KQED NEWSROOM <opennewsroom@kqed.org>; lois kazakoff <lkazakoff@sfchronicle.com>; Nolte Carl <CNolte@sfchronicle.com>; Rick Sterling <rsterling1@gmail.com>; "Nicholas.Goldberg@latimes.com" <Nicholas.Goldberg@latimes.com>; "linda.hall@latimes.com" <linda.hall@latimes.com>; "local@mercurynews.com" <local@mercurynews.com>; "rebecca@sfbg.com" <rebecca@sfbg.com>; "junhan.todeno@mvariety.com" <junhan.todeno@mvariety.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2013 2:35 PM
Subject: Kinsella solicitation for ACCJC

THE ACCJC WORLD VIEW, AS EXPOSED BY AN E-MAIL SOLICITATION FROM STEVEN KINSELLA

Steven Kinsella, CEO of Gavilan College and Vice-Chair of ACCJC, sent an e-mail to community and junior college CEO's/chancellors to solicit support for renewal of its recognition by US Dept of Education as an accrediting agency.

The e-mail presents himself as merely being a veteran and fellow CEO; the e-mail fails to note his position as Vice-Chair and Executive Committee of ACCJC (although I'm sure that other CEO's are aware of this fact). I'm sure that the fact that he holds a high position in ACCJC is not lost on the other CEO's.

In addition, according to ACCJC Bylaws the Vice-Chair will succeed to the position of Chair when the current Chair's (Sherrill Amador) term of office ends.

Mr. Kinsella's e-mail is deficient in full disclosure, and his request for support for ACCJC is ultimately self-serving.

Because of his position of power in ACCJC, the

solicitation is, in effect, a veiled directive.

What stands out about the e-mail is Mr. Kinsella's focus on what he perceives to be a power struggle between institutions, as represented by CEO's/ Chancellors, and faculty unions:

- · My action is to remind you that you can't sit on the sidelines thinking someone else will take care of the faculty unions and their paid consultants in the Assembly and Senate.
- · this is nothing more than a fight for total control, void of all but legal constraints that enrich faculty with more entitlements every year. Once they control accreditation they own you.

Mr. Kinsella makes frequent references to compliance with accreditation standards, but fails to address the issue of the validity of the standards in measuring educational quality of institutions. He interprets and conflates faculty union and community protests against ACCJC's excessive and unjustified Termination of Accreditation decision as being nothing but a power grab by unions.

The only reference to education in his entire e-mail is the following; and even then it is only in the context of a power struggle between member

colleges (as personified by CEO's/Chancellors per ACCJC definition) and unions:

- . Right now I am asking you to take one more step to "earn" the right to keep the right for member colleges of ACCJC to continue to be required to be accredited because of the quality of their educational programs and not because some union decided to give out accreditation certificates.

The Kinsella e-mail and Galatolo response follows.

--aj

KINSELLA E-MAIL

From: Steve Kinsella
<SKinsella@GAVILAN.EDU>
Date: 10/24/2013 09:47 AM
Subject: Does Your Accreditation Really Matter?

Dear Colleagues,

I reached that point where I am uncomfortable enough to finally comment with the rare "all user" email that we all love so much. Keep in mind,

these are my individual personal views as a veteran CEO. The issue is ACCJC which is a membership organization that is threatened by faculty unions who are attempting to decide among other things which organizations are to be accredited. My concern is that most people are sitting on the sidelines watching the show. This is your wake up call if you are one of those people. I am also writing to let you know it is okay to speak up for your accrediting commission.

We have seen some people step forward to champion the union call. Some play into that expecting the awards granted by union power. You see these people leading with comments that "suggest" they know what accreditation is and what it does for us. When you pull back the curtain you will see they do not chair team visits, participant in any way and appear to only be looking for a new spotlight to highlight their vast knowledge (or ignorance). ACCJC is a created legal entity operated by member colleges and members of the public who are voted into Commissioner positions by you. The Commission process measures college performance based on the Accreditation Standards YOU developed and agreed to comply with as part of being a member of ACCJC. Whether it is ACCJC or any other

accrediting commission the operational processes for remaining accredited require that you lead your college in a manner that ensures continuous compliance with accreditation standards. It's no more complicated than that. It's not the 19 Commissioners and it is not the team members or team chairs that give their time and expertise to provide you with an objective and independent peer review. By the way, each CEO is the member of ACCJC responsible for representing their college in regards to work of the Commission including development of standards.

There have been widely publicized comments about colleges being on a sanction of some level for not complying with all standards of our Commission. If you have to "blame" someone please do if it makes you feel better. Almost any excuse will do. I am not offering you choices of who or what to blame. I will say that your commission is not the reason why a college decided not to comply with accreditation standards. Compliance with standards is a choice. I acknowledge a lot of things are beyond our control. As the leaders and CEOs we own the good and the bad. I can't blame anyone for the choice I made to apply for a CEO position. I asked to be granted the rights, authority and responsibility of a

CEO of a community college. I can't walk away when things get uncomfortable. Some can, but I can't. It's just a character flaw I struggle with.

My experience in this system taught me one absolute truth: if the system isn't working for any combination of reasons it is my responsibility to make the system work. I can't remember even one time when I could ignore the system. Some people holding CEO positions don't have time to work with the rest of us and instead think they can destroy the organization so they can continue to do whatever it is that motivates them. I don't plan to waste time convincing those CEO's that maybe they are focused on themselves and not the system like the rest of us. My action is to remind you that you can't sit on the sidelines thinking someone else will take care of the faculty unions and their paid consultants in the Assembly and Senate. No one is riding in on a white horse because let's face it who in their right mind is going to challenge the all mighty unions. Those of you who have challenged the faculty unions know the sacrifice and price of demonstrating the courage to say no when you must. That is the type of leadership you now have to demonstrate to retain your accrediting commission.

As an aside if you think this is an ACCJC issue you need to think beyond this because this is nothing more than a fight for total control, void of all but legal constraints that enrich faculty with more entitlements every year. Once they control accreditation they own you. Today, you cannot buy accredited status, you cannot borrow it or win it in the lottery. The only way to be accredited is to do the work necessary to earn it. Right now I am asking you to take one more step to "earn" the right to keep the right for member colleges of ACCJC to continue to be required to be accredited because of the quality of their educational programs and not because some union decided to give out accreditation certificates. If you are willing to stand next to the handful of us who see this issue for what it really is then you need to take a couple minutes to write a letter as the CEO of your college that says the accreditation standards are accepted in your service area and that those standards (and your accreditation) are supported by your communities. I will ask the ACCJC staff to send you a copy of the letter I wrote if you request it.

Sincerely,

Steve

Dr. Steven M. Kinsella

DBA, CPA, CIA, CGMA

PS: I have great personal respect for the faculty I have had the pleasure of working with over the past 23 years. The unions however continue to show a single sided winner take all viewpoint.

GALATOLO RESPONSE

From: Galatolo, Ron

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 5:27 PM

To: Steve Kinsella; [CEO-
ALL@LISTSERV.CCCCO.EDU](mailto:CEO-ALL@LISTSERV.CCCCO.EDU)

Subject: RE: Does Your Accreditation Really Matter?

Dear Colleagues,

In response to Steve's email below, the benefits of accreditation and of a regional accrediting agency are not in question. The issue is ACCJC's inconsistent application of its own standards; its punitive focus on compliance – irrespective of relevance; its imposition of numerous sanctions; its preferential treatment of its own Commissioners; and its indifference to the application of reasonable due process.

The action by the ACCJC to terminate the accreditation of City College of San Francisco (CCSF) was not only an egregious error in judgment of epic proportions, but it solidified – at least for me – that the ACCJC has fundamentally harmed the reputation of our entire system and reinforced my belief that the ACCJC has not been objectively operating in the best interest of its member colleges for an extended period of time.

This reply is not intended to defend what is clearly a personal attack on individuals or organizations who have openly challenged the ACCJC, but rather to provide my colleagues a litany of facts that cannot be denied. In addition to the compelling details below, I urge you to read the well-prepared CCSF Show Cause Evaluation Report at the following link:

http://www.ccsf.edu/ACC/CCSF%20Show%20Cause%20Visit%20Team%20Report_05_20_2013.pdf

The report highlights the status of 14 recommendations made by the 2012 evaluation team. As you read those recommendations, I ask you to preface each one with: City College of San

Francisco should be closed permanently because...

As an example using the first recommendation in the report, City College of San Francisco should be closed permanently because they do not have a “prescribed process and timeline to regularly review the mission statement and revise it as necessary.” Or, the second recommendation, City College of San Francisco should be closed permanently because they did not “develop a strategy for fully implementing its existing planning process.”

CCSF is an imperfect institution – we all are! But do we eternally deny access to 85,000 students in San Francisco because of these largely non-academic issues or do we collectively get behind an institution that is performing (according to the State Chancellor’s Office Scorecard data) well above the statewide average in Completion, Persistence and Remedial English as well as ESL?

The facts speak for themselves:

- The ACCJC is under siege by a variety of educators, public officials and educational organizations: 1) the California Joint Legislative Committee on Audits ordered a formal State audit

of the ACCJC; 2) the United States Department of Education found the ACCJC to be out of compliance with Basic Eligibility Requirements; 3) the City of San Francisco and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT)/California Federation of Teachers (CFT) have both filed lawsuits against the ACCJC; and 4) the California Department of Education, the League of United Latin American Citizens and the AFT have filed complaints against the ACCJC.

- Over a ten year period (2003-2013), the ACCJC sanctioned 66% of California's community colleges undergoing accreditation. Since 2007, all 112 California community colleges were reviewed by the ACCJC – 71 of 112 colleges were sanctioned (63%). In the last three years, 35 of 51 community colleges were reviewed by the ACCJC – 69% were sanctioned.

- Conversely, the average sanction rate for the other accrediting agencies throughout the nation is approximately 2%. From 2003-2008, ACCJC generated 89% of all sanctions nationwide.

- Over a ten year period (2003-2013), 18 of the Commissioners' institutions underwent accreditation and NONE of those colleges received

a sanction – NONE!! A statistical improbability impossibility!!

- In several instances, the ACCJC Commissioners have ignored recommendations of the visiting teams they sent out to review institutions. In one recent example, Northern Marianas College was recommended for reaffirmation of accreditation by the visiting team, but that favorable endorsement was overruled by the Commission and Northern Marianas College received a “show cause” sanction.
- In March of 2013, Santa Barbara City College received a prominent national award by the Aspen Institute for “high achievement and performance in America’s community colleges” – Santa Barbara was chosen from more than 1,000 colleges nationwide. Nevertheless, the ACCJC sanctioned that very same college two months earlier, in January of 2013.
- In 2011, the Research and Planning Group for California Community Colleges (RP Group) found that the orientation of the ACCJC is at odds with best accreditation practices which, according to the RP Group, should focus on active engagement with a college community in

educational quality improvement, not punitive focus on compliance. The RP Group notes that the emphasis on compliance "...can detract from institutional improvement priorities—implying a disconnect between the intentions of the commission and the experience of the colleges."

- In addition, the RP Group found that "transparent, open and honest opportunities for feedback without fear of retribution are critical to the commission's relationship with member colleges" but "the colleges interviewed found the ACCJC generally unreceptive to constructive criticism and expressed a fear of retaliation."

The United States Department of Education (USDE) requires that an accrediting commission's "standards, policies, procedures and decisions to grant or deny accreditation are widely accepted" by educators and educational institutions (Criteria §602.13). This is a basic eligibility requirement for an organization to be recognized as an accrediting agency.

In response to the USDE's letter informing the ACCJC that it did not have "letters of support or broad acceptance for ACCJC's standards, policies, procedures and decisions" from educators and

educational institutions, the ACCJC President selectively petitioned CEOs, educational organizations and others asking them to send support letters in order to bolster ACCJC's request for reauthorization. The President also asked the responders to send these letters directly to her and not straight to the USDE. The ACCJC President is soliciting these letters of support from colleges that it accredits, which could exert undue influence on those individuals and entities to respond favorably.

Lastly, this email comes from a district that has all three of its colleges fully accredited. I have no personal axe to grind, nor am I expecting any "awards granted by union power." I merely care about the long-term welfare of our exceptional system as a whole!

All my best,
Ron
Ron Galatolo
Chancellor

San Mateo County Community College District