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*Accrediting Commission for
Community and Junior Colleges*

Follow-Up Report

Santa Barbara City College
721 Cliff Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

A Confidential Report Prepared for the Accrediting Commission
For Community and Junior Colleges

This report represents the findings of the team that visited

Santa Barbara City College
on
April 1, 2014

Dr. Raúl Rodríguez, Chancellor
Rancho Santiago Community College District, Chairperson

**Santa Barbara City College
Team Roster**

Dr. Raúl Rodríguez (Chair)
Chancellor
Rancho Santiago Community College District

Dr. Armine G. Hacopian
Member, Board of Trustees
Glendale College

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

During a period that can only be described as one of the most tumultuous in the history of Santa Barbara City College, a third party filed a complaint on June 28, 2011 with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, against Santa Barbara City College (SBCC). The complaint alleged that actions and behaviors of the Board of Trustees of SBCC caused the college to be out of compliance with several of the Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards. The Commission reviewed the institution's response to the complaint and investigated and evaluated the complaint. The Commission acted in June of 2012 to impose a sanction of **Warning** on the college. The three Commission Recommendations arising out of that action were:

Commission Recommendation 1: In order to meet Accreditation Standards, the Board of Trustees should receive additional and topic-specific training from "outside

experts" on the appropriate roles of the Board and Superintendent/President, and the requirements of Standard IV. This training should be agendaized and occur at a public meeting. The Board should further demonstrate compliance with these roles and responsibilities in its processes for Board evaluation and the Superintendent/President's evaluation. (Standard IV.B.1.d, g and j)

Commission Recommendation 2: In order to meet Accreditation Standards, the Board should revise its code of ethics policy to align with Accreditation Standards and policies (and the legal requirements of the board), identify a procedure, and the person(s) responsible for enforcement of the policy. The Board should also rectify its own behavior to comply. (Standard IV.B.1.h)

Commission Recommendation 3: In order to meet Eligibility Requirements and Accreditation Standards, the Board of Trustees should re-direct its focus to creating an environment for empowerment, innovation, and institutional excellence. Through

Board of Trustees has sustained the improvements that were noted in the 2013 Special Evaluation Report and has not only sustained those improvements but has continued to make progress on all three Commission Recommendations.

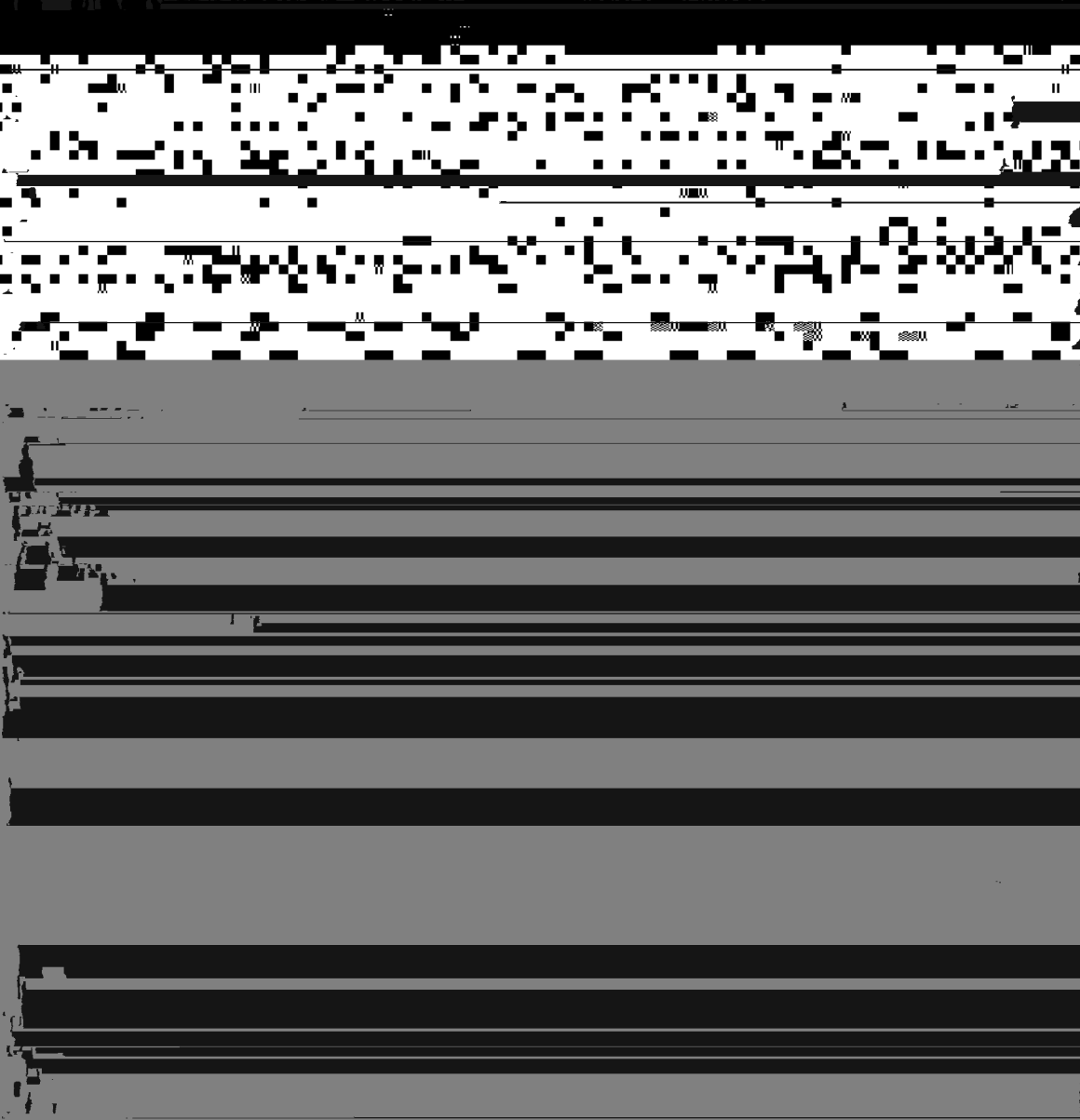
FINDINGS

Commission Recommendation 1

In order to meet Standards, the Board of Trustees should receive additional and topic-specific training from "outside experts" on the appropriate roles of the Board and Superintendent/President, and the requirements of Standard IV. This training should be organized and occur on a regular basis. The Board should fund a program of compliance with these roles and responsibilities in its processes for Board evaluation and the Superintendent/President's evaluation. (Standard IV.B.1.d, g, and j)

Evidence and Analysis

The SBCC Board of Trustees has participated in topic specific training from "outside



according to board policy and in a timely manner. (Standards IV.B.1; IV.B.1.j) In fact, the evaluation process for the Superintendent/President is noticed on multiple meetings

which allow the board and the Superintendent/President the latitude to discuss the issues in a more methodical and unhurried manner.

The SBCC Board of Trustees is setting its annual goals appropriately and coordinating them with the annual and long-range goals of the Superintendent/President.

Conclusions:

The team verifies that the SBCC Board of Trustees has sustained compliance with all

elements of Commission Recommendation 1. The Board and the Superintendent/President have implemented a Board Development Program that contains topic-specific training from "outside experts" and that does focus on the requirements of Standard IV,

the proper division of responsibilities between the board and the Superintendent/
President.

Multiple examples of evidence were provided to the team from constituent
representatives concerning the improved and appropriate behavior of the board. One
example had to do with the review of administrative procedures. There was a
longstanding practice by the SBCC Board of Trustees, which preceded the current board,
to review administrative procedures. At most colleges, a board will create a department

[REDACTED]

review board policy, but administrative procedures are generally considered to be the
guideline as to how to implement board policy. As such, it is typically delegated to the
CEO and the administration. The SBCC Board of Trustees recently decided that it no

[REDACTED]

and improvement of student learning programs and services. (Eligibility Requirements 3, 4, and 21; Standards IV.A.1, IV.A.2.a and b; IV.A.3; IV.A.4; IV.A.5; IV.B.1; IV.B.1.a, b, e and j; and IV.B.2.a through e)

[REDACTED]

As noted in the previous section, the Board of Trustees has transformed its behavior by acting in a manner congruent with best practices for a Board of Trustees. This Board now clearly understands its roles and responsibilities. (Standard IV.B.1.f) The working relationship between the Superintendent/President and the Board President is outstanding and has certainly enhanced this process.

While the Board has continued to improve its performance and to move to a new level of maturity as a board, the pivotal role of the Superintendent/President in this transformation must be acknowledged. Because the Superintendent/President fully understands her roles

[REDACTED]

and responsibilities, she has been able to firmly guide the Board when it was necessary to do so. This is a skill that should not be underestimated. The Superintendent/President is more than capable of overseeing the operations of SBCC and of leading this college. It is a tribute to the Board of Trustees that they recognize this fact and are letting the

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

