

CCCI and the ACCJC
The Western Association of Schools and Colleges
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
(see links to documents in the text)

May 2009

At its Spring 2009 Conference, CCCI passed a [resolution of “no confidence”](#) in WASC, ACCJC, and Barbara Beno, President of the ACCJC. Later the same month, CCCI Executive Secretary Dennis Frisch, substituting for CCCI President Richard Hansen at the May Consultation Council Meeting shared the resolution during a discussion about the rising number of California community colleges under ACCJC sanction.

June 2009

The first Consultation Council Accreditation Task Force was launched at the June 2009 meeting of the Council, and CCCI President Richard Hansen was named a faculty representative (also representing FACCC). After an initial ACCJC refusal to allow the Task Force to address the Commission during the open public session of its January 2010 meeting, the [seven-point findings document](#) was presented during a five-minute allotment of time during closed session.

November 2012

With mounting ACCJC sanctions of California community colleges, CCCI President Richard Hansen and CCC/CFT President Carl Friedlander requested that a Second Consultation Council Task Force be formed. With some hesitation, the Council approved the Task Force and charged it to find ways to keep colleges off sanction. Both Hansen and Friedlander were appointed to the Task Force, and it met into the summer of 2013. During this time College of the Redwoods, Cuesta College, and the City College of San Francisco were all slapped with the ultimate ACCJC sanction, “Show Cause,” and loss of their accreditation status. The mounting tensions led to disagreement among the Task Force participants, and there was no report.

June 2014

When the State Legislature convened in Fall 2013, CCCI Legislative Advocate David Balla-Hawkins found Senators Jim Beall (D) and Jim Nielson (R) willing to support a Joint Legislative Audit Committee investigation of the ACCJC, and a State Auditor report was published in June 2014. Finding that, as a private enterprise, the ACCJC would not be bound by its recommendations, the Auditor directed its fifteen [recommendations](#) to the Chancellor’s Office.

January - August 2015

Prompted by the need to address the Auditor’s recommendations and in response to the ACCJC inability to establish a more collaborative means of review its member colleges, the Consultation Council formed a Third Accreditation Task Force at its January 2015 meeting, and again, CCCI President Hansen agreed to participate. Rather than produce a critique of the ACCJC, this Task Force enumerated the attributes California’s community colleges required of their accreditor, and pointed the way toward a [“new model”](#) for accreditation.

November 2015 - March 2016

At its November 2015 meeting the Board of Governors complied with one of the State Auditor recommendations by removing the ACCJC from regulations naming it the sole accreditor for the California Community Colleges. At its January 2016 meeting the Board accepted the Third Task Force Report and directed that a Fourth Task Force be formed to write an implementation plan for a “new model for accreditation” due at its March meeting. CCCI President Hansen served on this Task Force as well, and the Board [adopted its plan](#) to form CEO Workgroup 1 to secure a transitional ACCJC and a CEO Workgroup 2 to find a path to a new accreditor.

Present

CCCI supports the Workgroup 2 recommendation, expressed first in January 2017, that the California community colleges join a single accreditor for all segments of higher education in the Western Region. At present, the most likely candidate is WASC Senior, the Western Region’s four-year college/university accreditor, but CEO Workgroup 2 progress toward this goal continues to be slow. At present, current CCCI President Jeffrey Michels is investigating means to gain faculty input into the CEO deliberations.