



CHAIR
Linda K. Johnsrud
University of Hawaii

VICE CHAIR
James Donahue
Graduate Theological Union

Christopher T. Cross
Public Member

Anna DiStefano
Fielding Graduate University

Jackie Donath
California State University, Sacramento

D. Merrill Ewert
Fresno Pacific University

John Fitzpatrick
Schools Commission Representative

Harold Hewitt
Chapman University

Michael Jackson
University of Southern California

Roberts Jones
Public Member

Barbara Karlin
Golden Gate University

Margaret Kasimatis
Loyola Marymount University

Julia Lopez
Public Member

Thomas McFadden
*Community and Junior Colleges
Representative*

Horace Mitchell
California State University, Bakersfield

Leroy Morishita
San Francisco State University

William Plater
*Indiana University –
Purdue University, Indianapolis*

Stephen Privett, S.J.
University of San Francisco

Sharon Salinger
University of California, Irvine

Sheldon Schuster
Keck Graduate Institute

Carmen Sigler
San Jose State University

Ramon Torrecilha
Mills College

Timothy White
University of California, Riverside

Michael Whyte
Azusa Pacific University

Paul Zingg
California State University, Chico

PRESIDENT
Ralph A. Wolff

July 11, 2012

Seth P. Galea'i
President
American Samoa Community College
P.O. Box 2609
Pago Pago, AS 96799

Dear President Galea'i:

At its meeting June 13-15, 2012, the WASC Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (ACSCU) considered the report of the Special Visit team that conducted an on-site review of the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) program at American Samoa Community College (ASCC) on April 6 and 7, 2012. The Commission also reviewed the Special Visit report submitted by the college prior to the visit. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit by conference call with you and your colleagues: Kathleen Kolhoff, vice president of academic and student affairs; Lina Scanlan-Galea'i, director, teacher education; Larry Purcell, American Samoa Bachelor of Education Program (ASBEP) core faculty; Sony Leomiti, ASBEP core faculty; Filemoni Lauilefue, ASBEP core faculty; Larry Park, ASBEP core faculty; and Ronald Turituri, ASBEP core faculty. Your observations were very helpful in informing the commission's deliberations.

The purpose of this visit was to review the Bachelor of Education degree program in a single visit for candidacy. As such, it combined both a capacity and an effectiveness focus on all ACSCU Standards and Criteria for Review (CFR) as they relate to the offering of the degree, with the understanding that the institution will remain with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) as its institutional accreditor. The team also evaluated the institution's responses to the recommendations of the ACSCU Eligibility Review Committee panel.

The team's report reflected a high level of satisfaction with the consistency and quality of leadership support, both from the college and from government agencies, that was demonstrated in the development of this new degree. The team also affirmed the qualifications and commitment of the faculty over an extended period of time as this program was created. The close linkages of the program with the urgent needs of the schools and with the rich cultural heritage of the Samoan society were also appreciated. The team was impressed with the commitment of program resources, including up-to-date computer labs, an extensive dedicated library, and spacious, well-equipped classrooms. The warm enthusiasm of the students for this learning opportunity in their home culture was evident.

The Commission endorsed the findings, commendations, and recommendations of the Special Visit team, and wishes to draw your attention to the issues identified below.

Culminating Assessments. The Commission recommends that, building on the very strong foundation already in place, the institution continue its development of summative assessments that will ensure the consistent culminating achievement of program learning

outcomes. In view of the expectation that a small cohort of students will have completed the program prior to the next review, evidence of achievement of students at the time of their graduation should be referenced in the report for Initial Accreditation. Specific attention should also be given to creating strategies to assess the lower- and upper-division general education competencies that have been identified for program graduates. (CFRs 2.2a, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6)

Faculty Workload. In view of the substantial investments of time and energy by program faculty in creating this new degree, the Commission is eager that their continuing contribution not be compromised because of heavy teaching and advising loads. The Commission recommends that attention be given to finding resources that can be allocated to faculty release time, to additional faculty hires, and to other means for honoring and preserving the remarkable faculty commitment to providing a quality education in this important program. (CFRs 2.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2)

The Commission acted to:

1. Receive the Special Visit Report.
2. Grant Candidacy to the Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) program at American Samoa Community College.
3. Schedule the review for Initial Accreditation for the B.Ed. program for spring 2013, with a focused visit to review evidence of culminating learning of the graduates.

In taking this action to grant candidacy, the Commission confirms that American Samoa Community College has met the WASC ACSCU Standards for this program at least at a minimal level and is expected to meet the Standards at a substantial level at the time of the visit in spring 2013.

Institutions granted the status of Candidate for Accreditation must use the statement in the *How to Become Accredited* Manual if they wish to describe that status publicly. Because the institution remains accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, the statement needs to be modified as follows:

The Bachelor of Education program at American Samoa Community College has been recognized as a Candidate for Accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), 985 Atlantic Avenue, #100, Alameda, CA 94501, 510.748.9001. This status is a preliminary affiliation with the Commission awarded for a maximum period of four years. Candidacy is an indication that the Bachelor's program is progressing toward Accreditation. Candidacy is not Accreditation and does not ensure eventual Accreditation.

Federal law requires that the Senior College Commission address and phone number also appear in your catalog, along with that of the ACCJC.

Institutions granted Candidacy are required to:

1. Submit an Annual Report form in the format required by the Commission.

2. Keep the Commission informed of any significant changes or developments, especially those that require prior approval according to the Commission's Substantive Change Policy. American Samoa Community College is approved by ACSCU to offer only the Bachelor of Education degree at its current location. Please consult the *Substantive Change Manual* and confer with your ACSCU liaison about any proposed new bachelor's degree programs, off-campus sites, online offerings, and/or changes in governance or ownership to determine if these matters should be approved.
3. Pay Annual Membership Dues calculated on the institution's FTE and prorated from the date of this action. An Annual Dues statement will be sent under separate cover.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to the chair of American Samoa Community College's governing board in one week.

In keeping with Commission policy adopted in November 2011, this letter and the underlying team report also will be posted on the Commission website in approximately one week. If you wish to post a response to the letter and/or team report on your own website, The Commission will also post a link to that response on its website. Any link that you wish to provide should be forwarded to the attention of Amy Allington so that it may be included on the Commission website. As noted in the Commission policy, team reports and action letters are foundational for institutional accountability and improvement. Institutions are expected to disseminate these documents throughout the institution for the purposes of promoting ongoing engagement and improvement and encouraging internal communications about specific issues identified in team reports and action letters.

Finally, the Commission wishes to express its appreciation for the extensive work that the College undertook in preparing for and supporting this accreditation review. The Commission is committed to an accreditation process that adds value to institutions while assuring public accountability, and we are grateful for your continued support of our process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Wolff
President

RW/rw

cc: Linda Johnsrud, Commission Chair
Kathleen Kohlhof, ALO
Uta L. Tagoilelagi, Board Chair
Barbara Beno, President, ACCJC
Members of the Special Visit team
Richard Winn