Western Association of Schools & Colleges
Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges & Universities

WASC

December 2, 2002

Lynda Goff
Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
University of California, Santa Cruz
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Dear Lynda:

Thank you for submitting the revised Institutional Proposal for University of California, Santa Cruz in September 2002. I am pleased to report that your Proposal has been reviewed and accepted. The Proposal Review Committee readers commend you for a proposal that evidences a scholarly approach to the accreditation process.

The Proposal Review Committee readers find much to commend in this revised Proposal. They find that your plans for the Preparatory Review are now well tied to the goals of your Educational Effectiveness review and that your operational definition of Institutional Capacity clearly includes the capacity to achieve the institutional learning you propose to accomplish for that later review. The readers counsel that in your Preparatory Review presentation, you continue to point ahead, and to highlight your efforts to build capacity for the Educational Effectiveness review. The readers would also like to commend you for focusing your proposal on significant institutional issues and challenges, and for asking the difficult "how" questions. They also find your goals and intentions on page 3 to be well stated.

The readers note that your proposed plan for the accreditation review is broad and ambitious. This is a source of both commendation and concern. The institution has little data to date, and some plans for data collection appear vague. The readers caution that the groundwork you will need to lay is considerable, and anticipate that you may narrow the scope of your work as you go. You pose complex questions about your small learning communities model and about engagement between faculty and students. In relation to these questions, the readers note the NSSE data reporting low contact between faculty and first-year students; the removal of some advising functions from faculty; and your continued failure to address the question of new faculty orientation, a concern continued from your last comprehensive review. We

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anticipate that the team that will visit your campus will raise these matters.

Despite these concerns, the Proposal Review Committee readers find your Proposal to be a sufficient basis for the conduct of the institutional review, and congratulate you on passing this accreditation milestone. They expect that you will give careful consideration to the comments and suggestions set forth in this letter.

Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of any assistance. I look forward to working with you as you move through the accreditation process.

Sincerely,

Martha Balshem

Martha Balshem, PhD
Associate Director

Cc: Amy Driscoll
Richard Curry