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PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ralph A. Wolff

February 27, 2009

Gene D. Block
Office of the Chancellor
University of California, Los Angeles
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Dear Chancellor Block:

At its meeting on February 20, 2009, the Commission considered the report of the team that conducted the Capacity and Preparatory Review (CPR) visit to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) on October 6-8, 2008. The Commission also reviewed the University's Capacity and Preparatory report. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Scott Waugh, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Judith Smith, and Assistant Provost Maryann Gray. Their comments were very helpful.

The University selected three important themes for its accreditation review: 1) shaping undergraduate education via the capstone experience; 2) facilitating undergraduate education and research; and 3) using educational technology to enhance the student academic experience. Each was addressed with case studies, and the University is to be commended on the ways in which it used these themes to address both Commission Standards and University priorities.

The team found many areas for commendation at UCLA. These include the development of a strategic plan to guide institutional priorities, to be further developed and aligned at the School and unit levels; a continuing, strong tradition of shared governance, as reflected, for example, in the faculty Senate's ownership of, and departmental engagement in the program review process; the strong University commitment to diversity; the continuing development of the interdisciplinary cluster general education program; and the strong support for high quality research throughout the University, with increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary research and teaching.

The Commission endorsed the findings, commendations and recommendations of the evaluation team. As noted by the University and the team, different levels of progress have been made in addressing each of the three themes. Given the seriousness with which the University is engaged in these issues, the Commission supports the team's recommendation, accepted by the University, that additional time is warranted before the Educational Effectiveness Review (EER).

The Commission places considerable emphasis at the EER on the results obtained from the assessment of student learning and the use of those results for improvement. The University has thoughtfully identified the capstone experience as a primary means for many departments to identify and assess student learning. The work done with departments in this area is exemplary, though it reveals that considerable work remains to be done. At the same time, as identified by the team, the University will also need to identify ways of working with the many departments that will not use the capstone experience to assess student learning outcomes. Additionally, the Commission would hope to see ways in which the program review process can incorporate attention to learning results. (CFRs 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 4.6 and 4.7)

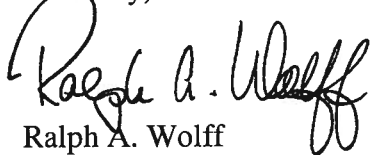
The Commission acted to:

1. Receive the Capacity and Preparatory Review report and continue the accreditation of the University of California, Los Angeles;
2. Reschedule the Educational Effectiveness Review visit for spring 2010.

In accordance with Commission policy, a copy of this letter will be sent to President Yudof and the Chair of the Board of Regents within one week. It is the Commission's expectation that the team report and this action letter will be widely disseminated throughout the institution to promote engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in the team report.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Wolff
President and Executive Director

Cc: President Yudoff
Richard Blum
Judith Smith
Commission Chair
Members of the visiting team