

Via email
September 23, 2004

CAAD Chair Triloki Pandey
CAFA Chair Robert Coe
CEP Chair Richard Hughey
COR Chair Judith Aissen
CPB Chair Paul Koch
COL Chair Ben Crow
COT Chair Charlie McDowell
GC Chair Bruce Schumm

RE: WASC Essays for Review

Dear Committee Chairs,
Attached (below) is the cover letter from Interim VPDUE Bill Ladusaw regarding the WASC Draft Educational Effectiveness Report. There is also a one page statement that will assist the committees in developing their comments.
Sincerely,

Alison Galloway
Academic Senate Office
Santa Cruz Division

SEP 22 2004

September 20, 2004

RECEIVED

ALISON GALLOWAY
Chair, Academic Senate

RE: DRAFT EDUCATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS REPORT

Dear Chair Galloway:

I write to transmit to the Academic Senate for its consultation the draft of three of the four sections of the WASC Educational Effectiveness Report. I look forward to receiving the comments and suggested revisions of these essays from the Senate. Shortly I will forward a draft of the fourth section, the integrative essay. I have separated that concluding essay from the substantive body of the report so that the early feedback from the Senate on these sections can shape the integrative conclusion from its beginning.

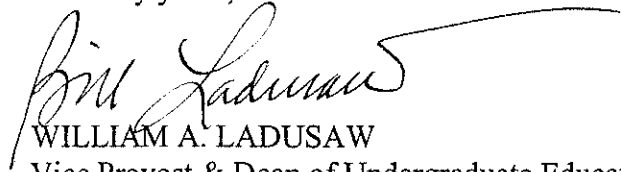
The report itself references several evidentiary exhibits. These exhibits provide data and analysis that support the conclusions and claims expressed in the essays. As such, they are part of the review portfolio; comments on their contents and suggestions for additions would be welcome. The exhibits are being collected in a website at <http://planning.ucsc.edu/wasc/eereview>, which is available to the Senate during this period of consultation.

I enclose a statement prepared by Senate Vice Chair Faye Crosby (in her role as co-chair of the WASC Steering Committee) and myself that we hope will assist the committees in developing their comments.

As we have discussed, the institutional portfolio must be received by WASC no later than Friday, November 12, 2004. I ask that the Senate provide any comments relevant to preparing the final version of this report to Ken Christopher before Monday, November 1, 2004.

I appreciate very much your own participation in the WASC process and particularly wish to acknowledge with gratitude the important role that Vice Chair Crosby has played in bringing us successfully to this stage. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,



WILLIAM A. LADUSAW
Vice Provost & Dean of Undergraduate Education
Accreditation Liaison Officer

cc: Acting Chancellor Chemers
Academic Senate Vice Chair Crosby
Interim Executive Vice Chancellor Delaney
Assistant Chancellor Hyder
Assistant Campus Provost Moreno
Members, WASC Steering Committee

Background Comments for the Academic Senate on the WASC Educational Effectiveness Report

The Educational Effectiveness Review is the final stage of the WASC Accreditation process. In November 2004, UCSC will submit the institutional portfolio for this review, consisting of a 50-page Report and associated Exhibits and Appendices. This portfolio will provide the background for the visit to the campus of an external review team from February 2 to 4, 2005. Following that visit, the visiting team will submit a report to the WASC Commission assessing our institutional commitment to the WASC standards for educational effectiveness. Based upon the visiting team's report and their own reading of our portfolio, the WASC commission will take action on our accreditation.

The draft of this Educational Effectiveness Review Report follows the structure prescribed by the WASC Accreditation Handbook by beginning with an essay describing our educational effectiveness approach, and concluding with an integrate essay that draws together the themes of the central body of the report and relating them to the WASC standards for accreditation. The central body of the report consists of two essays: one on growth and improvement in graduate education, and a second on enhancing undergraduate academic engagement. The structure and topical outline of the body of this report is fixed by the original institutional proposal submitted by the campus in 2002 at the beginning of this review. This proposal, as well as the WASC reference materials, are available in the WASC website at planning.ucsc.edu/wasc/.

The tone and style of this report has been influenced by the comments provided by last year's visiting committee and the WASC Commission's action letter of June 2004 (also available in the website). We have taken the advice of the Commission in seeking to address frankly the complex issues surrounding the practical pursuit of the campus goals for both graduate growth and undergraduate education. We hope to use this opportunity to make progress in building consensus on resolution of some of these issues, both in our consultation on this report and beyond.

All comments from the Senate on this report are, of course, welcome. We have provided the report in draft form so that it will be easier to incorporate revisions based upon Senate feedback into a final document, with format and style more polished than in the current version.

It would be particularly valuable for committees and commentators to address the following questions in addition to other comments:

1. Are there any statements in the essays that seem to you factually untrue? If so, how could they be rephrased or corrected?
2. Are there important statements that we did not make but that should be made in this report? Where would they fit in to the structure of this document?
3. Have we found more or less the right emphasis? Should some information in the exhibits be incorporated into the text? Should some textual discussion be incorporated to exhibits? Note that the report proper cannot exceed 50 pages.

Since we hope to develop the content and tone of the final integrative essay during this consultative period, it would also be useful to pose the following question as context for the Senate's reading of the body of the essay:

4. Which of the recommendations or suggested actions in the body of the text would you recommend as priorities for taking action on during the coming academic year?