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SS-S12-1, Sense of the Senate Resolution, WASC Review Steering Committee

Legislative History: At its meeting of February 13, 2012, the Academic Senate approved the following Sense of the Senate Resolution presented by the Executive Committee.

SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION
WASC REVIEW STEERING COMMITTEE

Whereas

SJSU's institutional review by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) is scheduled to take place during 2013-15, as follows:

- June 2013 – Submission of Retention/Graduation Narrative
- Fall 2013 – Finance Review
- *Self Study due 12 weeks before off-site review (max 75-page)—Nov. 1, 2013*
- Spring 2014 – Off-site review
- Fall 2014 **OR** Spring 2015 – On-site review (*only one visit: timing depends on outcomes of off-site review*)

and, w*hereas*

WASC has changed completely the institutional review process since our last institutional review (ending in 2007) *and,*

Whereas

SJSU successfully completed the last round of WASC review with full accreditation *and,*

Whereas

SJSU successfully completed a mandated Interim Review in February, 2011, *and*

Whereas

WASC accreditation is a campus-wide responsibility, requiring broad participation, that must be led by the faculty, *and*

Whereas

Faculty leadership for WASC accreditation should come from the Academic Senate, *therefore be it*

Resolved

That the SJSU Academic Senate endorse the establishment of a WASC Institutional Review Steering Committee charged with leading the campus preparation and

facilitating the review, in accordance with the new 2012 WASC review guidelines *an,d be it further*

Resolved

That the voting membership of the Steering Committee shall be comprised of persons representing the following offices, units, and appointments, with consideration given for prior WASC accreditation experience:

- Nine faculty, with one representative from each of the seven academic colleges, the Library, and Counseling Services. Prior experience with program accreditation, assessment, program planning, and/or related campus leadership is preferred;
- The Provost
- Two faculty Co-Directors of Assessment;
- The Chair of the Academic Senate (or designee);
- A staff member from Academic Affairs;
- A Dean from one of the seven academic colleges;
- A Department Chair selected by the University Council of Chairs and Directors;
- An Administrator representing the President's Office;
- An Administrator representing the Administration and Finance Division;
- An Administrator representing the VP Student Affairs
- The Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Director of General Education;
- The Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research;
- The President of Associated Students (or designee); and
- A member of the community, appointed by the President;

and, be it further

Resolved

That the Steering Committee be supported by the following (non-voting) *ex officio* members:

- AVP, Graduate Studies and Research;
- AVP, Undergraduate Studies (WASC Accreditation Liaison Officer);
- AVP, Institutional Research;
- AVP, Student Academic Success Services
- Vice President of University Advancement (or designee);
- Athletics Director (or designee);
- Dean, University Library (or designee);
- Director of Academic Technology; and
- Dean, International and Extended Studies (or designee)

and, be it further

Resolved

That the Steering Committee develop a campus preparation and implementation plan that responds to the directions given to the campus in the previous two Commission action letters, as follows:

SJSU EER Action Letter (July 6, 2007)

- Results and sustainability of assessment at all levels
- Development of themes of integrative learning, community connection, and inclusive excellence into core campus values
- Improvement of retention/graduation rates
- Provision for leadership transitions

SJSU Interim Report Letter (February 2, 2011)

- Participation of all programs in assessment and program review
- Define institutional learning outcomes and align to G.E. and program outcomes
- Implementation of Diversity Master Plan
- Shift the focus from activities related to improvement of graduation/retention rates to effectiveness with defined targets with disaggregated data

and, be it further

Resolved
That the Steering Committee oversee the campus preparation to meet the requirements of the Institutional Review process, as follows:

Institutions will file a single narrative (with data and a supporting portfolio – max 75 pages), including a set of data elements, addressing:

1. Response to previous Commission Action
2. Response (as needed) to Offsite Finance Review
3. Response (as needed) to the Offsite Retention and Graduation Review
4. Core Essays on:
    - The *meaning and rigor of degrees* offered [see Note, below]
    - How the institution assures the achievement of *the five undergrad degree outcomes* in 2.2 and other areas identified by the institution [see Note, below]
    - How the institution defines and assures student success (academic and co-curricular) within distinctive elements of mission and goals
    - How the institution assures the planning and improvement efforts, the sustainability of its operations and responds to the changing ecology of learning. [**Note**: "meaning and rigor of degrees" references the Lumina Foundation's *Degree Qualifications Profile* (2011). The "five undergraduate outcomes" refer to Critical Thinking, Written Communication, Oral Communication, Quantitative Literacy and Information Literacy. Institutions must demonstrate assessment of student competency in these five areas at time of graduation.]

and, be it further

Resolved

That The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate will appoint members of the Steering Committee as follows:

- Nominations for the faculty representatives on the Steering Committee will be sought from each of the seven academic colleges, the Library, and Counseling Services.
- The planning committee will submit some suggested faculty (or administrator) names to the Deans and Vice Presidents, and solicit their assistance in identifying from among those named, or others in their unit, two or three names of those willing to serve on the committee. [Note: Vice Presidents listed with the option of "designee" will only need to submit the name of the designee.]
- The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate will review and appoint the faculty representatives to the steering committee from those identified with a goal of representing the diversity of the campus population.

And, be it further

Resolved
That the work of the Steering Committee will require a commitment to the following schedule:

- A three-quarter day retreat near the end of February to set forth meeting schedules, task force compositions and assignments, milestones, and related planning and preparation goals and processes;
- Two meetings per month of 90 minutes or less, as needed.
- Planning and preparing for a 1) a campus Open Forum on WASC Accreditation; and 2) a campus event to launch the WASC institutional review process (probably in early Fall 2012).

And, be it further

Resolved
That the Steering Committee will create and identify membership, direction, and oversight of *at least* the following eight working Task Forces, each of which shall have appropriate faculty representation from the colleges:

- Meaning of Degrees Task Force
- Critical Thinking Task Force
- Quantitative Literacy Task Force
- Oral Communication Task Force
- Written Communication Task Force
- Information Literacy Task Force
- Retention, Graduation and Student Success Task Force
- Program Review Task Force

That the Steering Committee may create other Task Forces as it deems appropriate. *And, be it further*

Resolved

That the following resources be provided to support the work of the Steering Committee:

The faculty chair of the Steering Committee shall receive .4 assigned time each semester, starting in Fall 2012 and through completion of the Institutional Review.

Each Task Force Chair shall receive .2 assigned time per semester for duration of the Task Force assignment.

The Steering Committee shall receive one-half time clerical and administrative support to prepare meetings, take minutes, communicate with campus constituencies, prepare and distribute materials and related duties.

Faculty members of the Steering Committee shall receive cash stipends to support their work in Spring 2012. Support beyond Spring 2012 will be negotiated with Steering Committee and Provost prior to start of Fall 2012.