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June 18, 2002

Leon Dorosz
Interim Associate Vice President, Undergraduate Studies
San Jose State University
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0031

Dear Lee:

The Proposal Review Committee completed its review on June 6, 2002 of the Institutional Proposal submitted by San Jose State University (SJSU). The Committee appreciated your participation in the phone conference along with your colleagues, Bob Cooper, Annette Nellen, Sandy Dewitz, and Thalia Anagnos. Your responses to the questions and comments from the review panel were extremely helpful in assisting the panel to better understand the institutional context underlying the Proposal.

In its current state, the Proposal lists a variety of new and ambitious initiatives designed to enhance the SJSU mission. It also discusses a number of constraints and concerns to be simultaneously addressed by the University. It is clear in the information submitted about the status of the academic initiatives that the campus faces substantive challenges. In recognition of these multiple challenges, the panel seeks to underscore the need for SJSU to assess more realistically the goals it has set for itself in ensuring institutional capacity and identifying processes toward demonstrating educational effectiveness.

As the Academic Planning Advisory Council and other new committees continue to be developed, these structures and processes will demand sufficient time to produce results and influence institutional planning. Along the same line, the list of data collected remains long. The data will need to be analyzed and its purposes identified and linked to institutional goals and priorities across the institution. The same concerns apply to data collected from departmental program reviews and how these processes support and connect to the systematic, institution-wide review of educational effectiveness supported by examples of student learning.

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In preparing the Institutional Presentation for the Preparatory Review under the *2001 Handbook*, the expectation is that the Standards of Accreditation will be addressed and supported by evidentiary information. Further discussion of many of the constraints and concerns specified in the Proposal would logically be included in the Preparatory report. In addition, the responses to the issues raised in the last Commission action letter should be included in an Appendix to the report. Please be attentive to providing a better alignment between the issues raised by the last visit, campus actions, and the results of such actions.

SJSU plans to utilize the comprehensive model for the Educational Effectiveness Report. The Committee appreciates that the University already engages in a broad range of assessment activities. In considering the effectiveness of those activities the Committee expects that the University will include discussion of student learning grounded in evidence.

The Committee acted to accept the Proposal with modifications. The Institutional Proposal serves as a guide for the visiting team, therefore to avoid misunderstanding we require the following two modifications:

- Specify that the Standards will be addressed in the Preparatory Review.
- Clarify the relationship between the issues delineated in the context section and the review plan.

Please submit the Proposal with these brief modifications for staff review by July 26. If you have questions please contact Lily Owyang, your WASC liaison.

Sincerely,



Judie Gaffin Wexler, PhD
Associate Executive Director

Cc: Robert L. Caret
Lily Owyang
Proposal Review Committee