

Ohlone College Board of Trustees Response to Accreditation Team Exit Report
Submitted by Garrett Yee, Board President
April 9, 2008

Purpose.

The purpose of this communication is to provide an initial response to the Ohlone College community with respect to the recent Accreditation Team Exit Report provided to the Board of Trustees and campus community on March 6, 2008.

Background.

As most of us are aware, Ohlone College recently received a visit by an accreditation team during the week of March 3, 2008. The initial Accreditation Team Exit Report suggested that overall, Ohlone College as an academic institution is doing well. In fact, in several major areas reviewed, there were no recommended areas of improvement cited. As President of the Board of Trustees, I commend the efforts of the college for all their hard work in preparing for and participating in the accreditation process.

However, the Accreditation Team Exit Report on March 6, 2008, reflected that of the seven recommendations for improvement, four of the recommendations deal directly with Standard IV, "Leadership and Governance," and refer specifically to the board of trustees. These recommendations are as follows:

Recommendations

1. The Board of Trustees ceases involvement in college operations and delegate all non-policy issues and policy implementation to the president. (IV.B.1.e.j)
2. The Board of Trustees and College leadership define, publish, adhere to, regularly evaluate, and continuously improve the respective leadership roles and scopes of authority of college constituency groups and governance committees in meaningful, collegial decision-making processes (IV.A.1, 2, 3, 5)
3. The Board of Trustees takes measures to bring all constituent groups together to enable the college to:
 - A. Develop a positive and in-depth dialog on decision making roles and responsibilities that will ultimately lead to strengthening student learning and success at the college (I.A.3, I.B.1).
 - B. Create an environment which ensures greater administrative stability and empowerment at the college (IV.A.1, IV.A.2, A.2.a, A.2.b, A.3, A.5, IV.B.1, IV.B.2, IV.B.3).
4. The Board of Trustees develops a process to implement identified improvements derived from regular self-evaluations (IV.B.1.g).

Board Update.

Following the receipt of the recommendations on March 6th, the board held a workshop facilitated by a representative of ACCT, on Wednesday, March 12th, which included discussion of the Accreditation Team Exit Report recommendations. The purpose of the discussion was to:

a. Review and discuss the recommendations in order to gain an understanding of how we could improve in the areas noted.

b. Determine whether there were some actions that the board could take right away, that would go towards addressing the recommendations.

In concert with recommendation four, the board completed an initial self-evaluation administered by ACCT. The results of the self-evaluation will be discussed and implemented in concert with the findings of the accreditation report at its retreat later this summer and in the subsequent academic year.

Conclusion.

Although the board will not be able to view the full text of the accreditation report until it is delivered to the commission in June, the board felt it necessary to hold the workshop in order to conduct an initial assessment and work towards the recommendations, which included conducting a self-assessment. The Board looks forward to receiving the accreditation commission's full report and status decision in June and will develop a more thoroughly considered response at that time.