



July 5, 2007

Pamela Brooks Gann
President
Claremont McKenna College
Bauer Center, 500 E. Ninth Street
Claremont, CA 91711-6400

Dear President Gann:

During its meeting on June 27, 2007, a panel of the Proposal Review Committee (PRC) considered the Institutional Proposal submitted by Claremont McKenna College for its reaffirmation of accreditation review. The panel would like to thank you and your colleagues for participating on the call. Your comments proved most helpful. As indicated via email, the panel acted to accept the proposal.

The panel appreciated the opportunity to talk with you and your colleagues about the proposal and the work that lies ahead as the College prepares for its Capacity and Preparatory Review. The information provided about the development of the College's assessment program, use of evidence in decision making, and work with faculty to build support for assessment were helpful to the panel in understanding the context for the upcoming comprehensive review.

The panel considered Claremont McKenna's proposal an exemplar and will seek permission to share it with other institutions. The panel found the proposal to be well organized, well written, coherent, thoughtful, honest, and focused. The process used to arrive at your themes was also outstanding, asking the right questions of all the constituent groups. The panel was impressed by the high proportion of constituents in the community who participated in the surveys used to identify themes and by the ways in which you narrowed and focused in once the themes were finally selected. The research questions were framed effectively and should help draw out data that will inform plans and priorities as you move forward in your review.

Your discussion of the challenges of embedding assessment into the culture of Claremont McKenna was insightful and candid. You seem to understand clearly the challenges facing the College as well as the benefits that can be derived from instituting a strong assessment function. You have a good

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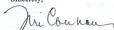
Bill Gray
Director of Operations Manager

strategy for building support among the faculty members for this important enterprise. The panel was pleased to hear discussion about institution-level assessment of important aspects of your mission, such as building leaders, and to learn about longitudinal studies being undertaken to measure effectiveness in instilling leadership values and skills. The panel appreciated that discussions have begun with other colleges in the Consortium about ways in which you can together assess your joint programs.

The timeline for review will remain with the Capacity and Preparatory Review, fall 2009 and the Educational Effectiveness Review in spring 2011 (specific dates to be determined). The proposal now becomes the framework for the accreditation review process and represents a plan of action and commitment by the institution. The proposal will be shared with the visiting teams for both the Capacity and Preparatory Review and the Educational Effectiveness Review, and with the Commission following each review. It is understood that adjustments in the activities undertaken under the proposal will be made as implementation occurs. Major changes to the proposal, such as in the direction or focus of institutional activities for the accreditation review process, are to be approved in advance by Commission staff. As you prepare for your Capacity and Preparatory Review, please plan to attend the upcoming CPR workshops held during the WASC Annual Meeting in April.

Again, congratulations on the fine work done in preparing for the review process and presenting a fine proposal that will provide an excellent guide during the review.

Sincerely,



Therese A. Cannon
Executive Associate Director

Cc: Joke H. Johnson, Assistant Dean of the Faculty, ALO
Proposal Review Committee