



March 17, 2006

Elaine Sundberg
Associate Vice Provost, Academic Programs
Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Ave.
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

Dear Elaine:

At its meeting on March 16, 2006, a panel of the Proposal Review Committee (PRC) considered the revised institutional proposal submitted by Sonoma State University for its reaffirmation of accreditation review. The panel appreciated the careful revision and found it to be clear and focused. The document reflects a substantial advance over the previous submission in setting forward priorities, and the panel was satisfied that Sonoma State has the structures in place to carry forward its revised plan. The panel acted to accept the revised Proposal.

The panel noted that the number of program reviews anticipated to be completed by the time of the Capacity and Preparatory Visit will be a challenge for the institution. Clearly, the visiting team will be interested to have the University reflect on its experience in this regard and what has been learned through this ambitious cycle.

The panel assumed that the information gained through the learning assessment systems discussed in the Proposal will play a significant role in the program review process. The panel anticipates that the visiting team will pay careful attention to the nature of this integration as one process is clearly of critical importance for the other.

The focus of the Educational Effectiveness Review on the distinctive nature of education at Sonoma State and the roles played by general education and the major in the curriculum is welcome. While the panel understood the proposal's emphasis on lower division programs as they are of critical importance in providing first time in college students a good start, it observed that visiting teams may also be interested to learn how the habits of mind which are stimulated by lower division programs are carried through in upper division and co-curricular initiatives as well as for transfer students.

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As you know, at its June meeting, the Commission reviewed comments from institutions on the timing between the Capacity and Preparatory and the Educational Effectiveness Reviews and has now made the normative schedule between visits to be 18 months. Therefore, the Capacity and Preparatory Review will be conducted in spring 2008 followed by the Educational Effectiveness Review in fall 2009. The Proposal as approved now becomes the framework for the accreditation review process and represents a plan of action and commitment by the institution. The Proposal will be distributed to visiting teams for both the Capacity and Preparatory Review and the Educational Effectiveness Review, and with the Commission following each Review. The data tables and relevant material are to be updated and included as part of the Capacity and Preparatory Review presentation. It is understood that adjustments in the activities undertaken as outlined in the Proposal will be made as implementation occurs. Major changes to the Proposal, such as a change in theme or in major focus of activities for the accreditation process, are to be approved in advance by Commission staff.

Congratulations on the acceptance of your Proposal. I look forward to working with you and the SSU community as you prepare for the review. Please do not hesitate to call on me if I can be of any assistance along the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Benedetti". There is a small mark below the name, possibly initials or a date.

Robert Benedetti
Adjunct Associate Director

Cc: Ruben Armiñana, President
Proposal Review Committee
Ralph A. Wolff, Executive Director