



October 14, 2009

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Ms. K. L. Solinski
Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs
The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602

Rufus Glasper
Chancellor

Dear Ms. Solinski,

With this letter I am responding to the request of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to conduct a complete assessment of the circumstances of an anonymous complaint filed with HLC regarding the "... Governing Board overstepping their role by acting as Chief Operating Officer and ignoring shared governance structure." You asked that the complaint be reviewed in light of HLC Criterion One and Core Components 1d and 1e.

I invited a five-member, independent consulting team to assist me by completing the review and assessment of the complaint and preparing a report. The consulting team was chaired by Dr. Peg Lee, President of Oakton Community College and included the following members: Dr. Gerald Baird, Executive Vice President, Johnson County Community College District; Dr. Michael Chipps, President, Mid-Plains Community College; Ms. Pearl Washington, former Board Chair/Member, Metropolitan and State Community Colleges; Mr. Darrell Shumway, former Board Chair/Member, Pratt Community College.

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I received the final report with recommendations on October 10, 2009; I am enclosing a copy of the report of this team on their consulting visit to the Maricopa Community Colleges, September 20 - 23, 2009. The recommendations speak for themselves.

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In response, I am planning to engage the services of a facilitator to assist the members of the Governing Board and me in reviewing the consulting team's report and recommendations, developing an action plan, and implementing appropriate actions. This work will begin with a Governing Board Retreat tentatively scheduled for November 6. This will be the initial opportunity for Board members to review, discuss, and develop a deeper understanding of the issues presented and needed changes. After this retreat I will provide a more complete response, including the Board's response to the Report and Recommendations, no later than November 16.

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I will plan to provide you with an update on our progress regularly thereafter. I will not hesitate to seek your guidance and counsel as we move forward with our review, action planning, and implementation.

Thank you for giving me additional time to provide this response.

Sincerely,

Rufus Glasper, Ph.D., CPA
Chancellor

cc: Dr. Mary Breslin, The Higher Learning Commission
Dr. Karen Solomon, The Higher Learning Commission
MCCCD Governing Board