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March 4, 2013

James Rosser
President
California State University, Los Angeles
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032-8508

Dear President Rosser:

At its meeting by conference call on February 14, 2013, a panel of the Interim Report Committee convened to consider the Interim Report submitted by California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA), on November 1, 2012. The panel reviewed the Interim Report and the Commission's action letter of March 7, 2011.

The panel appreciated the opportunity to discuss the report with Ashish Vaidya, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Lisa Chavez, Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer; Cheryl Ney, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Accreditation Liaison Officer; Nancy Wada-McKee, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs; Steven Jones, Dean of Undergraduate Studies; Karin Brown, Acting Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research; Mark Pavelchak, Director of Institutional Research; and David Connors, Acting Director of Program Review and Assessment. The conversation was very valuable and helped the panelists better understand the considerable progress CSULA has made in addressing the areas cited in the Commission's letter.

The report was extraordinarily thorough, clearly written, and extremely detailed in addressing the Commission's recommendations. The panel was very impressed by the great strides that have been made at CSULA and by the institution's deep commitment to students and student learning. There was much to praise including: the comprehensive plan to improve graduation rates and the significant progress CSULA has made to date; the new positions, committees and annual assessment reports that provided evidence of widespread campus engagement with assessment; the transformation of cumbersome paper-and-pencil processes to online systems to enhance services for students; and improved student advising through the addition of new staff, a robust training program, and the incorporation of advising into orientation activities.

In terms of the Commission's specific recommendations and the panel's judgments on each:

a. **Retention and Graduation Rates**. The panel appreciated the detailed information provided about the institution's extensive efforts to improve retention and graduation rates and concluded that CSULA appears on track to meet or exceed its goals by 2015 (45% for freshmen; 57% for transfer students). This issue has been satisfactorily addressed.

b. **Strategic Planning.** The panel was pleased to see that a revised strategic plan has been adopted; measureable outcomes have been set; and budget priorities are aligned with strategic priorities. This issue has been satisfactorily addressed.

c. **Assessment of Student Learning.** The panel commended CSULA for its hard work and considerable progress in setting institutional learning outcomes, building assessment capacity, instituting annual assessment reports, and integrating assessment into the regular six-year program review cycle. This issue has been satisfactorily addressed.

d. **Student Support Services**. The new student services fee has led to positive changes that will likely yield greater student success in the future. The new College Advising Center and improvements in technology were singled out for praise by the panel. This issue has been satisfactorily addressed.

e. **Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity.** CSULA has developed a definition of undergraduate research, created a minor in this area, and has put in place activities to engage students in research. Further, the institution has begun to look at the relationship between student participation in undergraduate research and graduation rates. This issue has been satisfactorily addressed.

Overall, the panel was extremely impressed by CSULA's considerable accomplishments and its thoughtful analyses, insights and deep understanding of CSULA students and what they need to succeed. The panel commends CSULA for satisfactorily addressing all of the Commission's recommendations and encourages the University to continue to make progress in these areas.

The panel decided the following:

1. To receive the Interim Report.

2. To request that CSULA report on its progress in the above areas as part of its institutional self-study in its next regularly scheduled interaction with WASC, the Offsite Review in fall 2018.

The panel, again, reaffirms the hard work and important steps CSULA as taken to address these issues. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or if I can be helpful.

Sincerely,



Barbara Gross Davis, Ph.D.
Vice President

cc: Cheryl Ney, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Accreditation Liaison Officer
Members of the Interim Report Committee