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PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Ralph A. Wolff

June 26, 2009

William Eisenhardt
President
California Maritime Academy
200 Maritime Academy Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590-8181

Dear President Eisenhardt:

At its meeting on June 17-19, 2009, the Commission considered the report of the Capacity and Preparatory Review (CPR) team that conducted a visit to California Maritime Academy (CMA) on March 4-6, 2009. The Commission also reviewed the Capacity and Preparatory report submitted by the Academy prior to the visit. The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and Associate Professor and ALO Graham Benton. The updates, additional information and observations you provided were helpful.

The Commission endorsed the findings, commendations, and recommendations of the visiting team. In particular, it noted CMA's ability to manage significant enrollment growth since the previous review cycle, the installation of state-of-the-art simulation facilities, progress in increasing on-campus residential capacity, and major technology upgrades, especially those on the *Golden Bear* training vessel.

The institution's Proposal framed the self-study around four themes: Intellectual Learning, Global Awareness, Applied Technology, and Leadership Development. While the institutional report focused on each of these areas, the team found the approach to the report more in keeping with the institution's strategic plan than with an analytical reflection on the educational outcomes associated with each theme. The team requested and received supporting documentation, which partially aligned these themes with the WASC Criteria for Review (CFRs).

In view of the fact that the initial version of the institution's CPR report was marginally adequate, the Commission emphasizes the importance of CMA preparing a more substantive and analytical report for the Educational Effectiveness Review (EER). This report should include campus-wide engagement and reflection on the general state of learning at the institution, and specifically on the issues identified for the EER in the Proposal, referencing the WASC Standards and CFRs. In addition, the Commission expects CMA to give attention to the areas cited in the CPR team report, and to report on progress made in addressing them. These include:

Use of Evidence. CMA needs to continue its development of a culture of evidence, including the creation of an overall assessment strategy that uses data for program improvement by tracking student success data and linking it with planning, and developing ways to assess students' personal qualities identified as core to CMA's mission. (CFRs 2.4, 2.6, 2.10, 4.3) The institution should consider drawing from the extensive array of both quantitative and qualitative data from existing internal sources, such as those arising from its ABET and IACBE reviews, in support of its analysis and conclusions for its EER report.

University Identity. The transformation begun in 1995 with admission to the CSU system must continue toward a more complete assimilation of the CMA identity as a CSU member. This should include the integration of institutional learning outcomes into academic and resource planning, marketing materials, and curriculum development. (CFRs 1.2, 4.2)

Diversity. While having made important progress since the 1970s, when CMA first provided access to women and minorities, the institution must continue to give productive attention to diversity. This can be expressed through more intentional recruitment of students and faculty, ensuring a welcoming climate for all stakeholders, and incorporating concepts of global citizenship more fully into the curriculum. (CFR 1.5)

The Standards of Accreditation place special emphasis on student learning and on the obligation of institutions to assess student learning and identify ways to improve it. CMA is making progress in building the infrastructure for the assessment of learning at the program level. At the time of the EER visit, this infrastructure should be more fully developed, aligned assessment should be under way across the institution, and the results of these assessments should be considered by faculty and administration for improvement and available for the team's review.

The Commission acted to:

1. Receive the Capacity and Preparatory Review report and continue the accreditation of California Maritime Academy
2. Reschedule the Educational Effectiveness Review visit for spring 2011 to provide additional time for the institution to prepare for the visit.
3. Request that the institution incorporate its response to the issues raised in this action letter and the major recommendations of the CPR team report into its Educational Effectiveness Review report. In addition, the institution is expected to prepare a brief analysis of how it meets the expectations established in the changes to the Standards and Criteria for Review, which were effective July 1, 2008. These changes can be found on the WASC website at www.wascsenior.org. You may include this analysis in an appendix to your EER report or incorporate it into the report.

In accordance with Commission policy, copies of this letter will be sent to Chancellor Charles Reed and the chair of the CSU Board of Trustees within one week. The Commission expects that the team report and this action letter will be widely disseminated throughout the institution to

promote engagement and improvement and to support the institution's response to the specific issues identified in the team report.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph A. Wolff". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ralph" being more prominent.

Ralph A. Wolff
President and Executive Director

RW/aa

cc: Sherwood Lingenfelter, Commission Chair
Graham Benton, ALO
Charles Reed
CSU Board Chair
Members of the CPR team
Richard Winn