



PimaCountyCommunityCollegeDistrict

Thursday, April 4, 2013

Dear Members of the HLC Executive Board,

The Faculty of Pima Community College extends our gratitude to the Higher Learning Commission for sending a fact-finding team to our institution and issuing a report on its findings. We find the concerns expressed by the report significant, serious, and legitimate. We are gratified that internal and external complaints have been taken seriously by the HLC, and we desire to play a central role in reforming our institution. As a major first step, the Faculty voted overwhelmingly for no confidence in the four board members named in the report and called for their resignations.

While grateful for the HLC's intervention, we also are apprehensive about the HLC's pending vote on whether or not to place PCC on Probation. We are deeply concerned that Probation would unfairly and unnecessarily penalize students, employees, and large segments of the college's operations that were and are unconnected to the governing structures found in non-compliance by the HLC. We take note and pride that the report does not reflect negatively on the academic quality, practices or standards of the college.

In summary, the Faculty agree with the HLC that action must be taken. However, while the Faculty of Pima Community College recognize that the fact-finding team discovered some egregious violations of our accreditation requirements and that the commission would rightly wish to impose sanctions that reflect the gravity of those violations, we nonetheless believe that Probation would punish the entire institution indiscriminately. We therefore respectfully request that the HLC Executive Board consider the more focused sanction of On Notice. We believe this is a more appropriate sanction given the findings of the HLC Report. This sanction could be used to identify the college's problems with far greater precision than would be possible with a sanction of Probation, which would cast an unwarranted pall on many people who have labored diligently over the past several years under what the HLC has accurately characterized as a culture of fear and intimidation.

Respectfully,
The Faculty of Pima Community College

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