



March 14, 2007

Dr. Barbara Beno  
Executive Director  
Accrediting Commission for Community  
and Junior Colleges  
10 Commercial Boulevard, Suite 204  
Novato, CA 94949

Dear Dr. Beno:

The purpose of accreditation is to honestly evaluate the institution's performance against standards. A Self Study should be a college's frank observations of its strengths, weaknesses, and progress toward those standards. It is with this philosophy that the Academic Senate reviewed the Self Study and prepared the enclosed report. The intention of this document is to directly address some areas in need of improvement. Faculty take pride in the work that they do to educate students and fulfill the faculty role in governance. The college is our home, and we are interested in continued improvements. However, improvements cannot be made without a true evaluation of the current state of the institution.

The Self Study would lead readers to believe that the college is progressing in a harmonious, collaborative environment. It portrays the college as paying close attention to planning, then integrating this planning throughout the work of the college. This is incorrect. In the pages that follow, we illustrate some of the most important areas where the Academic Senate sees the Self Study not painting a true picture of Hartnell College. This is not, as some might claim, an attempt to sabotage the accreditation process or portray the college in a bad light. On the contrary, there are many positive and effective college programs. Our students graduate, transfer, improve their skills, and/or find jobs. According to surveys, they show satisfaction in the college and the education they are receiving. In addition, the community has shown support for the college, as evidenced in its passage of the Measure H Bond in 2002.

While the positive aspects of the college are many, the Academic Senate knows that we can improve. The first step in doing so is to accurately assess the situation. The second is to make plans to address the weaknesses. In this response to the accreditation Self Study, the Academic Senate does both. Once an accurate assessment is made and weaknesses are identified, plans can be developed and implemented to strengthen Hartnell College.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lagier Fellguth, President  
Hartnell College Academic Senate