HARTNELL COLLEGE

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE
September 21, 2026, 11:15am, E-112 and Zoom
Minutes

MEMBERS	Constituent Group	Present	Absent
1. Rosslyn Knight, Tri-Lead	Administration	X	
2. Mario Flores	Administration	X	
3. Ana Gonzalez	Administration	X	
4. Eric Grabiel	Administration		X
5. Sandra Guzman	Administration	X	
6. Graciano Mendoza	Administration	X	
7. Chelsy Pham	Administration		X
8. Joseph Reyes	Administration	X	
9. David Techaira	Administration	X	
10. Layheng Ting	Administration	X	
11. Kayla Valentine	Administration		X
12. Vinita Tiwari, Tri-Lead	Classified	X	
13. Matthew Curry	Classified	X	
14. Dawn Henry	Classified	X	
15. Vanessa Meldahl	Classified	X	
16. David Beymer, Tri-Lead	H.C.F.A.	X	
17. Peter Gray	H.C.F.A.	X	
18. Miguel-Angel Manrique	H.C.F.A.	X	

19. Heather Rodriguez	H.C.F.A.	X	

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:15 a.m. by Vinita Tiwari.

2. Consider Approval of the Agenda

Motion for agenda approval by Vanessa, second by Mario. Agenda approved.

3. Consider Approval of the Minutes from April 2026

Motion for minutes approval by Heather, second by Matthew. Minutes approved.

4. Introductions of Committee Members

Members introduced themselves and their roles at the college.

5. Committee Charge for 26/27

- David discussed the role of the committee for the 26-27 school year. The committee will support responses as needed, organize meetings, and serve as liaisons throughout the accreditation process.
- Members were encouraged to review other colleges' accreditation actions, posted on the ACCJC website after the January and June Commission meetings, as benchmarks. Common issues include RSI, SLOs, evaluations, and budget. Hartnell's strong financial audit history was noted as a strength
- Rosslyn shared her experience with other accreditation bodies, noting similarities and differences with ACCJC and how regional system structures (e.g., Hawai'i's unified university and community college system) shape accreditation focus areas.

6. ISER/Visit

- The visiting team will meet in October in Los Angeles to develop core inquiries based on the ISER. These will be issued before the site visit, allowing the college to prepare detailed responses rather than be surprised on site. David and Sandra shared a brief history of visits not being planned and colleges being surprised with findings when the team arrived on site.
- The team is chaired by a representative from Hawai'i Community College, with a vice chair from Bakersfield College and three additional members from California colleges. This is a leaner team than in past visits.
- All team members are reviewing the sample of 50 online courses.

Stakeholder forums

- A virtual forum for faculty, staff, students, and community members is scheduled for **October 14, 2:30–3:30 p.m.** Senior leadership and Board members will not attend, to encourage candid input.
- Cabinet will meet virtually with the team separately on **October 20**.

Campus visit scope

- The campus visit will occur the week of March 8, 2027. This will be finalized after the team has completed review of the ISER and any additional documentation requested.
- Rosslyn and Lucy will manage logistics during the visit, including room assignments and scheduling. Members may be called into meetings during the visit; involvement will depend on the core inquiries.
- The visit will include one of the Centers (possibly Soledad) because of its substantive change status.
- Specific meetings with constituency groups will be scheduled after the visit is finalized.

5. ISER Status, Follow-Up Requests, and RSI Review

The ISER was submitted on **July 31**, ahead of the August 1 deadline. The committee is now managing follow-up review and document requests.

- The visiting team is expected to send questions on the ISER by **September 28**. Responses are due **October 5** via the ACCJC portal, which is accessed by Rosslyn Knight, Dr. Layheng Ting, and Richard Morales. Submissions will be electronic.
- **Areas of likely scrutiny:** Regular and substantive interaction (RSI) and faculty evaluations have historically been challenging areas. Improvements were noted, including updated part-time faculty job descriptions that better align with full-time roles; contract language is still under review. Missing or unclear documentation may prompt late requests.
- **RSI review:** The team randomly selected **50 Spring 2026 courses** for RSI review. If the first sample does not meet standards, a second sample from the current semester may be requested. The review is a true test of course quality, not an opportunity for retroactive changes. Rosslyn will confirm timing and details with the ACCJC liaison.
- **Faculty communication:** Members discussed early notification to faculty if results are negative so adjustments can be made before any second review.
- If issues such as evaluation compliance arise, the college will need to develop and implement corrective plans before the visit to demonstrate sustained improvement rather than reactive fixes.

6. Response Coordination and Communication

- Because of tight deadlines, members will be alerted (as needed) if new requests arrive near a deadline. Rosslyn will monitor communications even when out of the office.

- David Beymer encouraged members to review other colleges' accreditation actions, posted on the ACCJC website after the January and June Commission meetings, as benchmarks. Common issues include RSI, SLOs, evaluations, and budget. Hartnell's strong financial audit history was noted as a strength.

7. Closing Comments/Adjournment

Action items

- **Rosslyn Knight:** Monitor visiting team requests and upload responses via the portal by October 5; confirm RSI review details with the ACCJC liaison; facilitate the October 5 committee meeting; share accreditation updates and forum details with the committee and the college community.
- **David Beymer:** Facilitate the October 14 virtual forum.
- **Faculty and DE instructors:** Ensure distance education course materials meet RSI standards in anticipation of core inquiry and additional review during site visit.
- **All committee members:** Promote the October 14 forum broadly; be prepared for additional documentation requests as needed.
- Next meeting: **October 5, 2026**.

  Meeting adjourned at ----12:05pm.