

# College Must Prove it has Solved Accreditation Problem

Deadline looming

August 13, 2013 7:40 PM

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VICTORVILLE• Victor Valley College's administrative staff and Board of Trustees must each do their part to solidify the college's long-term budgetary plans to comply with three remaining recommendations by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, a college spokesman said Tuesday.

The college must prove they've remedied "Recommendation 6" by Oct. 15 to avoid losing their accreditation by the ACCJC, VVC spokesman Bill Greulich said. The college's accreditation status was first threatened in June 2011 when the ACCJC imposed a probation on their endorsement and required a follow-up report on a number of recommendations, according to reports.

The college's current budgetary plans for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 are to rely on unrestricted financial reserves, which the ACCJC has cautioned the college against using, according to Greulich and the ACCJC's Feb. 11 letter to the former college president, Christopher O'Hearn.

"I believe they are moving forward with that recommendation and that the (VVC) budget and finance committee has reviewed the FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team) report," Greulich said. "We have to be able to figure out how we can reduce the possibility of a structural deficit and there are many means by which that can be done."

According to Greulich, the Board of Trustees can make recommendations on cost-cutting measures in order to balance the college's budget. But the college's administrative staff will ultimately be responsible for fulfilling the board's recommendations, which could potentially require contract negotiations. The college also invited the FCMAT to analyze their finances in order to work towards complying with recommendation six, Greulich said.

VVC Trustee Joseph W. Brady said he is concerned that the college has not "properly and aggressively dealt with" its financial plans.

"While we've been talking about it for two years, I don't think we've taken the steps for the balanced budget that we made a resolution to do in the July 2012 board meeting," Brady said, "where we said the budget would be balanced by 2016."

The other two recommendations which must be resolved by Oct. 15 were related to student learning , institutional processes and learning outcomes.

"The college must accelerate its efforts to assess all student learning outcomes for every course, instructional and student support program, and incorporate analysis of student learning outcomes into course and program improvements," a portion of the ACCJC letter states.

The ACCJC report also states that the college has exceeded the two years allotted for coming into compliance in some areas and has been granted additional time. The ACCJC must take adverse actions after a two-year period, according to the letter.

And amid the college's efforts to address accreditation concerns, the Board of Trustees is still deciding which process it will take to fill their vacant fifth seat, opened when Michael Krause resigned in May. The next special meeting to vote on the process to appoint a fifth trustee or go to a special election is scheduled for Wednesday at 5 p.m. The last special meeting on the issue ended in gridlock, according to previous reports.

For more information on VVC's accreditation process and full ACCJC reports see [www.vvc.edu](http://www.vvc.edu).

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