

OUR OPINION

October 15 looms

September 4, 2013

We await, along with a great many Victor Valley residents, the coming visit to Victor Valley College by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Oct. 15, when we hope to see some resolution to the school's accreditation problems.

VVC has been on accreditation watch by the ACCJC for several years, mostly because the commission is concerned with the school's financial condition. An ACCJC staff analysis of the school's annual fiscal report, according to a letter sent to Interim VVC President Peter Allan Aug. 16, seems to indicate the jury is still out on the issue. It puts VVC in something called category R, and the school is now, according to the letter, receiving a "more in-depth analysis" by the ACCJC's financial reviewers.

Category R is the third, and lowest, classification ACCJC assigns schools it oversees. The first two are N and M, N meaning "normal risk" and M meaning "moderate risk."

The letter to Mr. Allan lists three reasons for the ACCJC's financial review because of its placing in category R ("severe risk") and "Excessive Salary/Benefits as a proportion of expenditures" is at the top. "Significant unfunded enrollment" is next, and the April 13 fiscal review of the school by the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team (which was called in by the ACCJC in July of 2012 when it became apparent VVC was having financial difficulties) is listed third.

What everyone involved in the problems at VVC seeks is an end to the probationary status of VVC accreditation. That can only come through the ACCJC.

As we said, we're all looking forward to the Oct. 15 visitation. We can only hope that the school has given the ACCJC an acceptable plan which will eventually correct its financial problems, and has already made significant progress in bringing those "excessive salaries and benefits" into the balance the ACCJC seeks.

Steve Williams