

OUR OPINION

# Resisting revocation

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City College of San Francisco, the state's largest community college by enrollment and one of the largest institutions of higher learning in the country, was much in the news over the weekend in the Victor Valley.

That's because the school's accreditation (80,000 students enrolled last year) is on life support. CCSF's accreditation was put in jeopardy last year by the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and the school was given until July 31 of this year to clean up its act or be closed. Over the weekend, though, the ACCJC was sued, the plaintiffs alleging the ACCJC did not follow due process in its threatened revocation of CCSF accreditation.

And who sued the ACCJC? Um, two teachers unions at CCSF, who were joined by the City of San Francisco's attorney.

No surprise there, of course. If CCSF closes, it will cost the teachers' unions dues formerly collected from all those CCSF instructors. And of course San Francisco itself will lose jobs and money spent not only on education but on all those services city businesses provide — food, clothing, transportation, entertainment, etc., etc., to people who work at or attend CCSF. We've not been able to put a dollar figure on the potential loss, but we can almost guarantee it runs well into nine figures.

While the situation at Victor Valley College is not exactly similar — CCSF was given an ultimatum by the ACCJC but the lawsuit was apparently inspired by a fear that the school might not meet the terms of the ultimatum— VVC is still in danger, as nearly as we can make out.

As a Sunday Daily Press story noted, VVC has been on some sort of probation regarding accreditation for the past nine years; the ACCJC says a ruling on the school's status will come very soon. But we suspect that, even if that ruling is negative, there will be some sort of escape hatch to delay the school's closing. An extension by the ACCJC with new conditions seems to us the most obvious.

At CCSF, though, the delays apparently have run out, and the July 31 date of decision appears to be firm, and brought the teachers' union suit.

One of the allegations against the ACCJC handling of the CCSF case was that a "conflict of interest" tainted the process and decision. Now, we read Sunday, opponents of the ACCJC's rulings on VVC say they're similarly tainted.

One wonders why there is such resistance to the ACCJC's handling of VVC accreditation. The ACCJC's primary complaint about VVC seems to be that the school's trustees in the past have made financial commitments that, in light of present and estimated future income, cannot be met.

So who is resisting the fixes that need to be made to bring VVC into compliance with ACCJC standards? And if the school's accreditation is revoked, will a lawsuit ensue? And who will file it? Your guesses is as good as ours ... and probably the same ones.

**Steve Williams**