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June 26, 2009

William Eisenhardt  
President  
California Maritime Academy  
2001  
Vallejo, CA 94590-8101

Dear President Eisenhardt:

At its meeting on June 17-19, 2009, the Commission considered the report of the Capacity and Resource Review (CRR) team that conducted a visit to California Maritime Academy (CMA) on June 17-19, 2009.

The Commission reviewed the report submitted by the Academy prior to the visit.

The Commission appreciated the opportunity to discuss the visit with you and Assistant Professor and AIC Chairman, Dean. The additional information and observations you provided were helpful.

The Commission endorsed the findings, commendations, and recommendations of the visiting team. In particular, it noted CMA's ability to manage significant enrollment growth since the previous review cycle, the installation of state-of-the-art simulation facilities, progress in increasing on-campus residential capacity, and major technology upgrades, especially those on the Golden Bear training vessel.

The institution's Proposal framed the self-study around four themes: Intellectual Learning, Global Awareness, Applied Technology, and Leadership Development. The Commission found the approach to the report more in keeping with the institution's strategic plan than the initial reflection on the educational outcomes associated with each theme. The report also demonstrated how the institution partially aligned these themes with the WASC Criteria for Review (CFRs).

In view of the fact that the initial version of the institution's CRR report was marginally adequate, the Commission emphasizes the importance of CMA preparing a more substantive and analytical report for the Educational Effectiveness Review (EER). This report should include a comprehensive assessment and reflection on the current state of learning at the institution, and the alignment and reflection on the current state of learning at the institution, and

**Use of Evidence.** CMA needs to continue its development of a culture of evidence, including the creation of an evidence-based strategy that uses data for program improvement by tracking student success data and linking it with planning, and developing ways to assess students' personal qualities. As a result of the extensive review of quantitative and qualitative data from existing in-house sources, creating and analyzing this data will provide the support of its analysis and conclusions for its EER report.

**University Identity.** The transformation begun in 1995 with admission to the CSU system must continue toward a more complete assimilation of the CMA identity as a CSU member. This

access to women and minorities, the institution must continue to give productive attention to diversity. This can be expressed through more intentional recruitment of students and faculty citizenship more fully into the curriculum. (CFR 1.5)

The Standards of Accreditation place special emphasis on student learning and on the obligation of institutions to assess student learning and identify ways to improve it. CMA is making progress in building the infrastructure for the assessment of learning at the program level. At the time of the EER visit, this infrastructure should be more fully developed, aligned assessment should be under way across the institution, and the results of these assessments should be considered by faculty and administration for improvement and available for the team's review.

The Commission acted to:

1. Reaffirm the Commission's Department Review report and continue the accreditation of California Maritime Academy.
2. Reschedule the Educational Effectiveness Review visit for spring 2011 to provide additional time for the institution to prepare for the visit.
3. Request that the institution incorporate its response to the issues raised in this action letter

Effectiveness Review report. In addition, the institution is expected to prepare a brief analysis of how it meets the expectations established in the changes to the Standards and

Changes to Department, which were effective July 1, 2009. These changes can be found on

the Commission's website. This analysis should be included in the report.

It is the Commission's expectation that the institution will incorporate these findings into the report.

issues identified in the team report.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this letter or the action of the Commission.

Sincerely,



Ralph A. Wolff  
President and Executive Director

RW/aa

cc: Sherwood Lingenfelter, Commission Chair  
Graham Benton, ALO  
Charles Reed  
CSU Board Chair  
Members of the CPR team  
Richard Winn