

May 7, 2013

Cynthia Schragger
Accreditation Liaison Officer
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Cynthia:

At its meeting by conference call on April 26, 2013, a panel of the Retention and Graduation Committee (RGC) considered the Retention, Graduation, and Time-to-Degree data templates, institutional narrative, and supporting materials submitted by the University of California, Berkeley (UCB) on April 1, 2013. The panel and I would like to thank you, Gibor Basri, Vice Chancellor for Equity and Inclusion, Pamela Brown, Executive Director of the Office of Planning and Analysis, Sereeta Alexander, Institutional Research Analyst for the Office of Planning and Analysis, and Andrew Eppig, Institutional Research Analyst for the Office of Planning and Analysis and Equity and Inclusion, for participating in the call and giving the reviewers an opportunity to discuss your data. The conversation was informative and helped the panelists better understand UCB's student success results, context, capacity, challenges and initiatives to improve and/or ensure student success.

The institution's narrative followed the retention and graduation review framework outlined in the WASC handbook and was thoughtful and well presented. The templates were completed accurately and comprehensively. Supporting materials were professional and relevant. The panel commends UCB for the great care and thoroughness evident in preparing your materials.

During the conference call, the panel learned more about the institution's efforts to analyze student success rates by program to identify where program level improvements might be needed. The panel acknowledges that while UCB identifies gaps in student success data, particularly for some sub-populations of students, you find that trend data continue to improve.

The panel understands that UCB is studying possible reasons for gaps in student success results and, more specifically, why some students are taking longer than four years to graduate.

The panel commends UCB for your:

- a) mission and commitment to diversity;
- b) comprehensive Strategic Plan for equity, inclusion and diversity;
- c) overall success with retention and graduation results;
- d) many efforts to address the aforementioned gaps and attention to issues including stereotype threat and campus climate;
- e) summer courses and the Common Good Curriculum Initiative which contribute to timely progress towards a degree;
- f) investment in Cal Answers;

- g) commitment to access and financial aid (grants/scholarships) for students, and low debt levels for graduating students.

After extensive discussion of UCB's retention, graduation and time to degree data, narrative and supporting documents, the panel decided to:

1. Receive the Retention, Graduation, and Time-to-Degree data templates, institutional narrative, and supporting materials;
2. Endorse the institution's efforts to close gaps in student success results;
3. Recommend that you report what you have learned from your study and subsequent strategies implemented and progress made to address gaps at the time of your accreditation visit;
4. Urge that you share effective practices not just with WASC, but with other institutions throughout the region.

The panel uses a rubric to assess and reflect their conclusions about UCB's capacity for monitoring and understanding retention, graduation, and time-to-degree data:

Initial	Emerging	Developed	Highly Developed
Partially completed templates or did not complete them for all groups. Narrative does not reflect an understanding and assessment of the data. <input type="checkbox"/>	Completed templates properly for all groups, but narrative does not fully reflect an understanding and assessment of the data. <input type="checkbox"/>	Completed templates properly and narrative provides a full albeit basic understanding and assessment of the data. <input type="checkbox"/>	Completed templates properly and contextualization in narrative thoroughly reflects a deeper understanding and assessment of the data. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The panel would like to affirm the hard work and important steps UCB has taken to address these issues to this point. I wish you and UCB every success.

Sincerely,



Maureen A. Maloney
Vice President

- cc: Gibor Basri, UCB
Pamela Brown, UCB
Sereeta Alexander, UCB
Andrew Eppig, UCB
Heather Brown, MSMC
Lisa E. Bortman, Pepperdine University
Richard Winn, WASC