

Accreditation and Institutional Quality (AIQ) Committee

Spring 2023

March 29, 2023

Grace Commiso, AIQ Faculty Chair

The Accreditation and Institutional Quality Committee (AIQ) supports the EODAC charge as approved by the Academic Senate.

Per our committee charge, AIQ is responsible for providing leadership for the overall direction and support of college accreditation and institutional effectiveness. AIQ is concerned that the college will face negative consequences in our upcoming accreditation visit if we cease to have a shared governance committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In 2018, Bakersfield College was commended for its commitment to shared governance and the leadership provided by its committees. For those unfamiliar with accreditation, a commendation is a substantial accolade that recognizes the institution as a model for others. It is important to note that EODAC existed as a committee at that time, and despite the claims by some of problems within the committee, BC received this commendation.

Per the report “Staff Diversity/EEO Committee Member Representation,” provided by the Academic Senate President Nick Strobel and posted to today’s meeting as a support document, only two colleges in California have an equity/diversity committee organized under the Academic Senate and composed of only faculty: Sierra College and Santa Monica College. A review of the most recent accreditation letters received by these two colleges revealed that both received multiple recommendations to improve and were required by ACCJC to complete follow-up reports within 18 months to continue their accreditation.¹² AIQ does not believe that these schools should be used as a model for committees.

As AIQ has reported to the campus community previously, our upcoming accreditation visit will function under the new ACCJC standards. While these standards will not be finalized until June, ACCJC has released draft standards to allow colleges to begin their preparation. Many of these standards explicitly address equity.

Standard 1:2 reads, “The institution establishes goals that are aligned with its mission and reflect pursuit of institutional excellence. The institution works to fulfill its mission with commitments to continuous quality improvement and equity-minded practices.”

Standard 1.4 reads, “The institution holds itself accountable for achieving its mission and goals, and for closing opportunity gaps. It regularly reviews relevant, meaningfully disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data to evaluate its progress and inform planning, improvement, and innovation.”

Standard 4.1 reads, “The institution maintains appropriate policies and regularly assesses its employment practices to promote and improve equity, diversity, and mission fulfillment.”³

Please note, in all standards, the entire institution, not just faculty, is responsible for equity.

In summary, AIQ believes the EODAC charge as approved continues to meet our accreditation standards, while the DEI alternative does not.

¹ Sierra College: [Sierra-College-Peer-Review-Visit-Team-Report.pdf \(sierracollege.edu\)](#)

² Santa Monica College: [SantaMonicaCollegeACCJCLetter_02_03_2017.pdf \(smc.edu\)](#)

³ ACCJC New Standards: [ACCJC Draft Accreditation Standards - Fall 2022 - 09-23-2022 Update](#)