

28 June 2005

Elizabeth Griego, Associate Director
Western Association of Schools and Colleges
985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Elizabeth:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the students, faculty and staff at California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) to indicate our intention to undertake with WASC our initial accreditation review. The campus is already well along in preparing our Capacity and Preparatory Report for submission to WASC in mid-November 2005 in anticipation of a site visit in March 2006. In addition, we have begun planning our Educational Effectiveness Report for submission to WASC in November 2006 in advance of our March 2007 site visit.

As was the case during our candidacy review, it is our intention to address fully and comprehensively all of the WASC Standards and Criteria for Review in both our Capacity and Preparatory Report and our Educational Effectiveness Report. CSUCI has from the start embraced the *WASC Handbook of Accreditation* as our roadmap for building the new University, and continues to do so. As such, the Comprehensive approach as described in Section III of the *Handbook* continues as the best approach to our self-studies. I have announced to the campus community that our accreditation activities are our top priority in the coming year and have invited the entire campus community to participate in these activities. Based on prior experience, I anticipate very broad participation from all campus community stakeholder groups. As before, our accreditation activities will continue to be led by our faculty.

CSUCI has benefited greatly from the advice that it has received from WASC. We have made public the Commission Action Letter granting candidacy to the campus and the report from our site visit team on our campus website. We intend to give serious consideration to the concerns raised by the Commission and recommendations made by the site visit team. In fact, the discussion of these concerns and recommendations is well underway and we intend to report on the results of these discussions in our Capacity and Preparatory Report.

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At this time, we anticipate that our Capacity and Preparatory Report and our Educational Effectiveness Report will be organized along the same lines as our earlier reports. In our future studies we intend to continue our practice of providing accurate descriptions of the current state of the University and of our future plans for the University as they pertain to our core commitments to institutional capacity and educational effectiveness. As you know, our campus has evolved rapidly in its few short years of existence. At the time of our first Capacity and Preparatory Report in Fall 2002 we had just enrolled our first students, an event that marked the birth of our new campus. Since then, the campus has experienced rapid growth in virtually all areas including the student body, the curriculum and co-curriculum, the faculty and staff, facilities, and University policies and procedures. CSUCI reached an important milestone in the past year as for the first time the campus served students from all class standings beginning with the freshman and extending to the masters level. As such, until now our energies have focused on launching the new University. Looking ahead, we will continue with start-up activities as these activities are not completed, but will devote increasing attention to assessing our new programs and using what we learn in the process to improve these programs. As noted in our Educational Effectiveness Report, the campus is committed to continuous improvement as evidenced by our campus policies on continuous improvement, academic program review, student evaluation of courses, and retention, tenure and promotion and the creation of the Assessment Council. Assessment activities have begun in all campus divisions. It is our intention to report on the state of our assessment activities in our self-studies.

I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of our students and my faculty and staff colleagues in launching CSU Channel Islands. We look forward to our next site visit in March to continue our dialogue with WASC on building a new campus.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard R. Rush", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard R. Rush
President