

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 14, 2011

Ralph A. Wolff, President
Western Association of Schools and Colleges
985 Atlantic Avenue, Ste. 100
Alameda, California 94501

Dear Ralph:

I am grateful for the work of the Commission in preparing the letter that we received from you, dated March 3, 2011. I also appreciate the opportunity to discuss the CPR visiting team report with Commission members during our recent meeting with a Commission panel. On behalf of Pepperdine University, I accept the recommendations of the WASC Commission.

As discussed in our response to the CPR visiting team report (November 29, 2010), Pepperdine has created a structure consisting of five working groups, which aim to address the recommendations contained in our own CPR report, as well as the recommendations of the visiting team. Recently, these working groups have presented progress reports to our University Planning Committee, and I have been encouraged by their progress in addressing the recommendations. As noted by the Commission, the breadth and scope of our own recommendation list is ambitious. Should it be necessary to prioritize our work, we do believe that the visiting team report provides sound advice for doing so. In addition, the granting of a full 24 months between the CPR and EER reviews is especially helpful to us as we complete this work, and we thank the Commission for this additional time.

While we accept the Commission's recommendations, we do believe that two areas of the letter require our brief comment to ensure that the record accurately reflects the context of our efforts in addressing the recommendations of our CPR report and the report of the visiting team.

Regarding our recommendations in the area of faculty governance, the visiting team noted that, at the school,

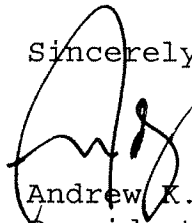
divisional, and program levels, a variety of committees exist that provide faculty "sufficient venues for deliberations, reviews, and approvals" over matters such as "faculty affairs, research, admissions, academic standards, teaching and learning, and related matters." Our work in faculty governance aims to increase faculty awareness of, and participation in, academic policy development, resource allocation, and assessment at the University level. It is within this context that we accept the conclusion of the Commission and the conclusion of the visiting team, that "much remains to be done by both the University leadership and the faculty in general."

With respect to our recommendations regarding the University Faculty Council (UFC), our own CPR report noted that our intent was for the UFC to reassess its own charter, following a period of reflection by UFC members on its past operations and opportunities for improving faculty governance at the University level. Revisiting and rewriting a portion of the UFC's charter may be one possible outcome of that process. However, as an institution, we will leave it to the UFC to make recommendations and to take actions consistent with those recommendations in this regard.

Our efforts are being carried out in alignment with Pepperdine's distinctive mission and, in particular, with the institution's Christian values that underlie our Institutional Educational Objectives. This approach ensures that our efforts remain faithful to our mission as we complete the Educational Effectiveness Review.

We remain grateful to the Commission, the visiting team, and the WASC staff for their support of Pepperdine University through this process. We look forward to continuing this conversation as we complete the EER phase of the reaffirmation process. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew K. Benton". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "A" and a cursive "B".

Andrew K. Benton
President