



October 12, 2005

Steven B. Sample

President and
Robert C. Packard
Professor

Mr. Ralph Wolff
Executive Director
Western Association of Schools and Colleges
985 Atlantic Avenue
Suite 100
Alameda, California 94501

Dear Ralph:

The University of Southern California is pleased that the cycle of accreditation review by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) coincides with the implementation of USC's 2004 Strategic Plan for "Building Strategic Capabilities for the University of the 21st Century." We have been able to design an institutional proposal that aligns the accreditation process with USC's institutional priorities and directions for development. These are issues of consequence to the university and the process will be taken seriously.

We will utilize the accreditation review process to demonstrate that USC is committed to developing and sustaining all the elements of institutional capacity and educational effectiveness that are incorporated in WASC's four Standards of Accreditation. We stipulate that the information that is presented in the proposal and the data in the appendices are accurate and represent the institution fairly.

USC publishes its policies on the university's website and makes them publicly available, including the policies on academic freedom, due process, affirmative action, and conflicts of interest. All of the policies listed in Appendix I of the WASC *Handbook of Accreditation* do exist at USC and are available for review on request throughout the period of accreditation.

USC will abide by procedures adopted by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities to meet the federally mandated regulations of the U.S. Department of Education as outlined in Section VI of the *Handbook*.

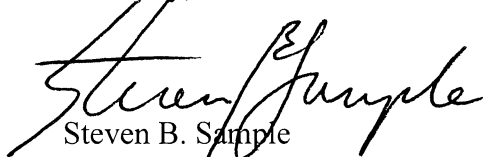
USC will submit all regularly required data, and any data specifically requested by the commission during the period of accreditation.

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The university has reviewed its off-campus programs and degree programs offered by distance learning and determined that they have been approved by the Substantive Change Committee of WASC, when such approval was appropriate because proposed programs represented significant departures, in either content or method of delivery, from past practice. In order to challenge USC students on our campus and beyond in a more learner-centered environment, we will be continuing to innovate with technologically enhanced pedagogy, building on the current use of technology in our academic programs. We look forward to discussing and evaluating our use of technology in our academic programs as part of this accreditation review.

I believe that USC's experimental 1997-1998 accreditation review benefited both USC and WASC. It added momentum to the rate of change at this institution, and it helped WASC create a more responsive model for accreditation and embedded the spirit of experimentation into WASC's activities. I hope that our partnership will be as productive in the next four years as it was last time.

Sincerely,



Steven B. Sample
President