



Welcome to  
**Merritt College**  
Accreditation Follow-Up  
Report (AFR) Updates!



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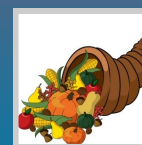
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Meeting

November 4, 2015  
1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.  
Room L126



*Dr. Mia Kelly*  
Editor,  
AFR Newsletter

**The purpose of the newsletter is to ensure open communication, transparency, and accountability to all college constituencies around the Accreditation Follow-Up Report processes.**

## ***A Call to Action!***

### **AFR Sub-Committees at Work**

#### Harvest Greetings!

All AFR Co-Leads and Sub-Committee members who have fully committed to participating in the Accreditation Follow-Up Report are to be commended for doing a fantastic job!

AFR Sub-Committees are painstakingly in the throes of collaboration, while culling through numerous documents for evidence collection. Pictured at right are the AFR Sub-Committee members for College Recommendation 5, diligently working under the direction of faculty Co-Lead, Ann Elliot and Administrative Liaison, Romeo Garcia.



Center back to right, Romeo Garcia, Interim Dean; Frances Moy, DSP Counselor/Coordinator; Tom Renbarger, Faculty; Jennifer Lough-Kennedy, Editor/Writer; Debra Jacks, Classified Staff; Project Manager, Dinh Truong and Ann Elliot, Faculty Co-Lead.

#### **Spotlight!** **Dr. Wise Allen**



Dr. Wise Allen is currently serving as Merritt College's Interim Vice President of Instruction. Since his arrival

to Merritt College just weeks ago, Dr. Allen has already extended tremendous support to the AFR effort: first by providing global and historical perspectives on Accreditation processes to college constituencies and second; by mobilizing and reinforcing the roles and responsibilities of participants and Administrative Liaisons. Dr. Allen has supported "A Call to Action" reiterating the urgent need for College-Wide participation. As the former Chancellor of the Peralta Colleges and CEO of Merritt College, Dr. Allen is extremely familiar with Merritt College operations and brings invaluable expertise and support to the Accreditation process.

#### AFR Core Values and Vision Statement

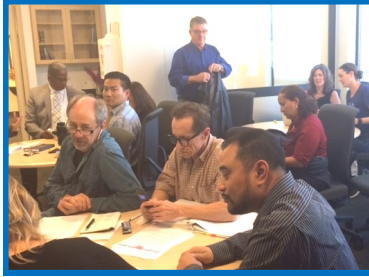
Our Logo is symbolic of Merritt's collective diversity, ideas, and desire to work collaboratively to create a unified whole in efforts of restoring the institution to full accreditation, excellence, and beyond...

Through inspection and evidence-based analysis we are reconstructing the puzzle to exemplify the shared vision, mission, and core values of the institution.

—Dr. Mia Kelly

## AFR Steering Committee Meeting, Wednesday October 18, 2015

The first AFR Steering Committee meeting convened on Wednesday, October 18, 2015. Forty-five participants were in attendance. After a warm welcome from Dr. Wise Allen, Interim VPI, Dr. Mia Kelly presented an overview of the definitions of *ACCJC Sanctions*, reiterating the urgency of Merritt's current Probationary Status.



Each of the Nine College Recommendation Sub-Committee Co-Leads were then invited to provide an update on their progress, share strategies, and identify obstacles encountered. These updates created an open, supportive forum for dialogue and fostered a culture of collaboration. Robust discussions also revealed lessons learned from the past few weeks, and increased understanding of accreditation processes, guidelines, and procedures.



Co-Leads Sheila Metcalf-Tobin & Chris Gramp

Dr. Audrey Trotter addressed Strategies for College Recommendation Sub-Committee Goal Achievement while also responding to questions revealed during Sub-Committee Co-Lead reports including:

- ⇒ Conducting an AFR Gap Analysis: What is the AFR gap analysis and how to conduct it?
- ⇒ What to do if the AFR Gap Analysis reveals the need to start over?
- ⇒ Where can I find the information needed to show how the College meets the Standards?
- ⇒ How to utilize the AFR Administrative Support Liaison to identify sources of information, or to clarify institutional processes and policies?
- ⇒ How to access College Shared Governance Committee By-laws and Archives?
- ⇒ What to do if information on institutional processes and policies is incomplete?
- ⇒ How to use evidence to support your writing response?
- ⇒ Links to successful ACCJC Community College Self Evaluation and Follow-Up Reports.

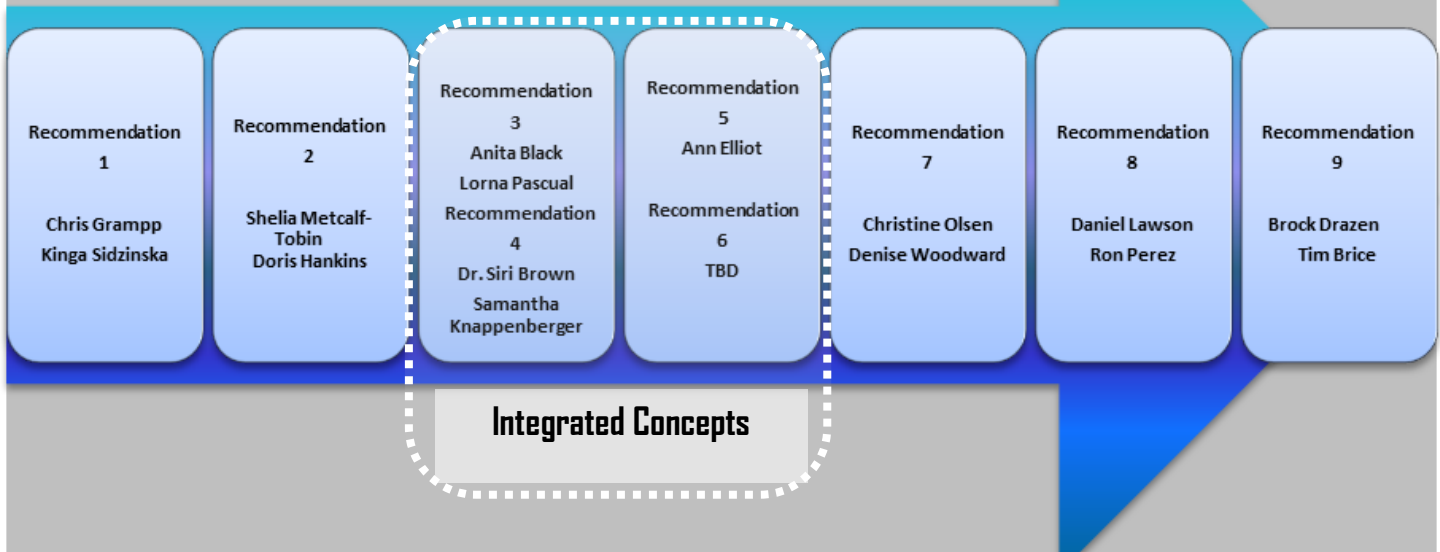
Jennifer Lough Kennedy, the AFR Writer/ Editor then presented and disseminated the AFR College Recommendation Writing Outline with an explanation of guidelines for beginning and completing the initial draft.

The next AFR Steering Committee Meeting will include detailed updates from Nghiem Thai, AFR Website Coordinator and Maril Bull, AFR Electronic Evidence Coordinator. All are encouraged to utilize the numerous resources on the Merritt Accreditation website, and AFR Co-Leads should submit College Recommendation Sub-Committee meeting minutes directly to Maril Bull (pictured below L to R with Kinga Sidzinska)

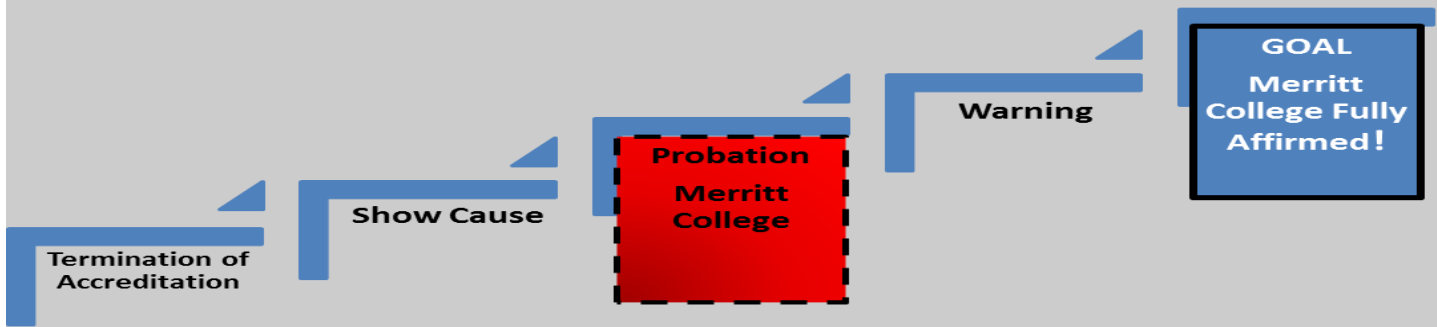


Broad-based dialogue will continue in the upcoming months as we strive for excellence and our commitment to mutual support through Merritt's AFR processes.

### College Recommendation Sub-Committee Co-Leads



# ACCJC Sanctions Defined



The criteria for the level of sanctions imposed by the ACCJC includes the following in order of severity:

1. Fully Affirmed Accreditation
2. Issue Warning— Sanction when ACCJC finds that an institution has pursued a course deviating from the Commission’s Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies.
3. Impose Probation—Sanction when ACCJC finds that an institution deviates significantly from the Commission’s Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies or fails to respond to conditions imposed upon it by the Commission, including a warning.
4. Order Show Cause— Sanction when the ACCJC finds an institution to be in substantial non-compliance with its Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, or Commission policies, or when the institution has not responded to the conditions imposed by the Commission.
5. Termination of accreditation—If, in the judgment of the Commission, an institution has not satisfactorily explained or corrected matters of which it has been given notice, or has taken an action that has placed it significantly out of compliance with the Eligibility Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and Commission policies, its accreditation may be terminated.

## College Recommendation (CR) Administrative Liaisons \*Evolving list, subject to change

<u>CR 1</u> Dr. Lilia Chavez & Dr. Rachel Antrobus	<u>CR 4</u> Dr. Tina Vasconcellos & Dr. Rosemary Delia	<u>CR 7</u> Dr. Arnulfo Cedillo
<u>CR 2</u> Dr. Rachel Antrobus	<u>CR 5</u> Romeo Garcia & Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz	<u>CR 8</u> Dr. Dativa Del Rosario
<u>CR 3</u> Dr. Dativa Del Rosario & Dr. Tina Vasconcellos	<u>CR 6</u> Dr. Rosemary Delia & Dr. Wise Allen	<u>CR 9</u> Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz

### Merritt College Mission Statement

The mission of Merritt College is to enhance the quality of life in the communities we serve by helping students attain knowledge, master skills, and develop the appreciation, attitudes and values needed to succeed and participate responsibly in a democratic society and a global community.