June 27, 2014

Michael Sigman
Chairperson
Philosophy Department
East Los Angeles College
1301 Avenida Cesar Chavez
Monterey Park, CA 91754-6099

Dear Sigman,

The College has completed its process its Comprehensive Program Review. We would like to thank you for all the work you have put into providing the College with detailed information on your programs through the Program Review Self-Evaluation. The following comments, commendations and recommendations are the culmination of a campus-wide validation process that included the Strategic Planning Committee, Educational Planning Subcommittee, Facilities Planning Subcommittee, Technology Planning Subcommittee, Enrollment Management Committee, Learning Assessment Committee, Program Review and Viability Committee and the ELAC Shared Governance Council.

The following comments, commendations and recommendations are provided for incorporation in your annual planning. Each recommendation will need to be addressed in your Annual Update Plan (AUP) due at the end of September 2014. To be clear, these recommendations serve as part of our process for continual quality improvement. Typically, recommendations require planning improvements that will be implemented over time. Through collegial dialog on the recommendations, each department should develop a strategy for addressing the recommendations. The program review AUP allows a department to report on its efforts and identify needed resources. The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and the Program Review and Viability Committee are available to assist departments through this process.

Comments:
The PRSE indicated that the department had extensive discussion about the equity gap (the gap in completion rates between subgroups in the student population) and that they are working with FYC. However, there was no new department goal to address the equity gap in their program plan.

Commendations:
The department is commended for its collaborative work with other departments to develop interdisciplinary programs, such as Women’s Studies.

Recommendations:
1) That Philosophy develop a plan for improving student success rates. Since the Department has determined that college-level writing is critical to student
retention and student success yet has chosen not to have a prerequisite for the courses, the Department must determine other means to assist students in being successful.

2) That the department take additional measures to close the equity gap.

3) That the department increase involvement in PLOs as they are currently at the “awareness” level for the Philosophy Program.

Thank you again for your dedicated work on improving the College and your programs.

Sincerely,

Marvin Martinez
President
East Los Angeles College

cc: Dr. R. Moyer, Vice President
    V. Ly, Dean