

Rudolf Steiner College

April 24, 2012

From: Accreditation Office
Subject: Accreditation Status
Author: William Bento, PhD
To: All Students, Faculty, Administration Staff, and Board of Trustees

On February 23 the Western Association of Schools and Colleges commission had a hearing to review the submission for candidacy by Rudolf Steiner College. Gayle Davis, President, Laura Randles, CFO, and William Bento, ALO were present.

On March 8 the WASC commission sent a letter, which granted candidacy with four recommendations. The first recommendation was a request to submit credit hour policy and procedures for ensuring it and reviewing it periodically, along with all syllabi for all courses at Rudolf Steiner College demonstrating credit hour allocations. This was sent to WASC on April 12, 2012. The other three recommendations were points mentioned by the Educational Effectiveness Review visiting team's report of fall 2011. These recommendations included, more evidence of complete program reviews and effectiveness of student learning, a balanced budget for the next three years with a plan for financial sustainability, and more independent board members chairing committees with the by-laws being in alignment with best practices of higher educational institutions.

An annual report for 2011-2012 was prepared and is being submitted by April 30, 2012.

The candidacy status allows the College to apply to the Department of Education for Federal loans. From application to the time of implementation of federal loans is at least a year or more. All those enrolled at this time and pursuing a Master of Arts in Education degree will receive transcripts that indicate all courses have been reviewed by WASC as the accrediting agency granting Rudolf Steiner College its current status as candidacy for accreditation. This degree will be grandfathered in as an accredited degree by most of the higher educational institutes granting doctoral level degrees as well it being recognized by most schools and related institutions.

Rudolf Steiner College is now positioning itself to propose to WASC two new programs: a BA completion in Communication inclusive of Critical Thinking, Anthroposophical Studies, and Research Projects; and an MA in Transpersonal Psychology with concentration on Anthroposophic Psychology. The former is a structural change and may take approximately a year to be approved by the WASC commission with a site visit prior to final approval. The latter is a substantive change, which could take 8-10 months to receive approval from the WASC substantive change committee.

The Accreditation Core Team will be creating a strategy to meet the requirements for the Fall 2013 Capacity and Preparation Review site visit, which is the first of two steps toward initial accreditation. The second step is scheduling an Educational Effectiveness Review site visit in Fall 2015.

If you have any questions regarding the accreditation status of the College, please contact me either by e-mail at william.bento@steinercollege.edu or call me at 916-961-8727 ext. 145.

Respectfully,



William Bento, PhD
Accreditation Liaison Officer, Associate Academic Dean