



PALO VERDE COLLEGE

WHERE KNOWLEDGE TAKES ROOT AND OPPORTUNITY GROWS

March 8, 2026

Melynie Schiel
Vice President
Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
428 J Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Vice President Schiel,

Thank you for sharing the correspondence dated February 12, 2026, notifying Palo Verde Community College District of two complaints received by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) on January 29, 2026.

The letter referenced concerns related to components of the **ACCJC Policy on Institutional Integrity and Ethics**, specifically items addressing institutional policies on integrity in hiring, academic honesty, conflict of interest, due process protections, and governance processes for reporting questionable accounting or operational practices.

Palo Verde Community College District maintains comprehensive Board Policies and Administrative Procedures that address each of the referenced elements. These policies are publicly available through the District's BoardDocs system and are regularly reviewed by the Governing Board in accordance with ACCJC standards and California Community College system guidance.

Below is a summary demonstrating the district's compliance.

1. Policies Ensuring Academic Honesty, Integrity in Hiring, Conflict of Interest, and Due Process

Palo Verde Community College District has established multiple policies and procedures that collectively ensure ethical conduct, integrity in institutional processes, and due process protections for employees and students.

Academic Honesty and Standards of Conduct

The district maintains policies governing academic honesty and student conduct through:

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- **BP 5500 – Standards of Student Conduct**
- **AP 5500 – Standards of Student Conduct**

These policies establish expectations for academic integrity and outline disciplinary procedures that ensure fair and consistent enforcement. The procedures provide due process protection for students and clearly define violations related to academic dishonesty.

Integrity in Hiring Processes

The district ensures integrity and fairness in hiring through:

- **BP 7120 – Recruitment and Hiring**
- **AP 7120 – Recruitment and Hiring**

These policies establish transparent recruitment procedures, equitable screening and selection processes, and adherence to equal employment opportunity principles. They ensure that hiring practices are conducted ethically, consistently, and in alignment with California Community College regulations.

Conflict of Interest and Ethical Governance

The district addresses ethical conduct and conflicts of interest through several policies governing trustees, administrators, and employees, including:

- **BP 2710 – Conflict of Interest**
- **BP 2715 – Code of Ethics / Standards of Practice**
- **BP 3050 – Institutional Code of Ethics**
- **BP 6340 – Bids and Contracts**

These policies establish expectations for ethical decision-making, disclosure of potential conflicts, and adherence to state laws governing public agency conduct. They apply to the Governing Board and District employees and are publicly available through BoardDocs.

Due Process Protections

Due process protections are embedded in multiple District policies and procedures governing employee discipline, student conduct, and grievance processes, including:

- **BP 5530 – Student Rights and Grievances**

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- **AP 5530 – Student Rights and Grievances**
- **BP 3430 – Prohibition of Harassment**
- **AP 3430 – Prohibition of Harassment**

These policies ensure fair procedures, confidentiality protections, and formal avenues for review and resolution of complaints.

2. Governance Processes for Reporting Questionable Accounting Practices, Fraud, Waste, or Abuse

Palo Verde Community College District maintains formal mechanisms for reporting concerns related to fiscal integrity, operational violations, or suspected misconduct. These include confidential and anonymous reporting processes consistent with ACCJC expectations.

Whistleblower Protections and Reporting Mechanisms

The district has established the following policies:

- **BP 7700 – Whistleblower Protection**
- **AP 7700 – Whistleblower Protection**

These policies provide a formal process for reporting suspected fraud, waste, abuse, or violations of law. The procedures explicitly allow for **confidential and anonymous reporting** and prohibit retaliation against individuals who report concerns in good faith.

Fiscal Oversight and Accountability

Additional oversight is supported through fiscal management policies including:

- **BP 6300 – Fiscal Management**
- **AP 6300 – Fiscal Management**

These policies outline internal controls, financial accountability standards, and procedures designed to ensure responsible stewardship of public resources.

Together, these policies ensure that individuals within the organization have clear, accessible channels to report concerns related to financial or operational integrity.

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Palo Verde Community College District affirms its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of institutional integrity, ethical governance, and accountability. The District's Board Policies and Administrative Procedures demonstrate clear alignment with the requirements cited in the ACCJC Policy on Institutional Integrity and Ethics.

All referenced policies are publicly available through the District's BoardDocs system and are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure continued compliance with state regulations and accreditation standards.

Should the Commission require additional documentation or clarification, the district would be pleased to provide further information.

Thank you for your continued partnership and your commitment to ensuring quality and integrity in higher education.

Sincerely,

Bruce Moses

Dr. Bruce Moses
Superintendent/President
Palo Verde Community College District

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