

MATT SMITH TRIO
Jazz trio thumps out originals and covers
at the Howard Brubeck Theatre. **Page 7**



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Task force recommends new accrediting agency

Colleges are urged to continue cooperating with ACCJC for the time being

MIKE PETERSON
THE TELESCOPE

Palomar College may be getting a new accreditation system.

A task force from the California Community College Chancellor's Office found several concerns with the current accreditation process, according to a memo sent out by Palomar's interim president Adrian Gonzales.

The 10-person task force

was assigned to evaluate California's accreditation process for community colleges, and to make recommendations to the Chancellor's Office about the current state of California's accreditation model.

The report states that the task force found California's accreditation structure could no longer meet the current or anticipated demands of California's community colleges.

The current accreditation agency for community colleges in California is the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

"The California Community College Chancellor's Office Task Force on Accreditation Report was a fair and objective evaluation that provided an honest assessment of the current situa-

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DAN SOURBEER • VP, INSTRUCTION

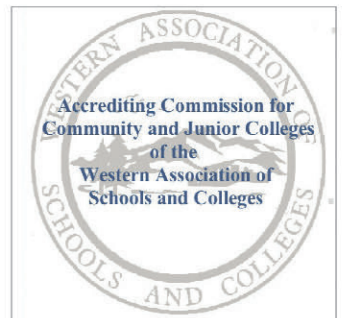
tion," Palomar vice president of instruction Dan Sourbeer said.

He added that as Palomar awaits further direction, the college will continue to work and cooperate with the ACCJC.

The ACCJC recently visited Palomar's campus in March to validate the college's accreditation according to a 350-page self-evaluation report.

Gonzales' memo also stated that Palomar needs to continue working on the several areas of recommendation outlined in both the college's self-evaluation, as well as the ACCJC's exit report.

"... but not because of



The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges' logo.

the accrediting agency we are currently under or any fears of future sanctions, but rather because healthy organizations regularly review and address areas of concern," he added.

The memo also said that the same recommendations the ACCJC team made, Palomar found themselves in their self-evaluation.

The task force's recommendation also includes finding a new accreditation model. This would include finding a new accrediting agency or combining the process with the agency responsible for accrediting universities in the area.

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A map of all community colleges in California.
Design by Noah Callahan/The Telescope



Board potentially violates California Brown Act

SUSAN WHALEY
THE TELESCOPE

Palomar's governing board potentially violated California open meetings law for two reasons.

The board did not post its agenda on time and they changed the date of their meeting without proper notice.

The Brown Act states that a local legislature in California must post its agenda and date of meeting 72 hours in advance. The Palomar website even states that the board follows the Brown Act.

The Palomar College Governing Board scheduled a regular meeting for Tuesday Sept. 8. The date has been posted on Palomar's website all semester.

However, the Sept. 8 meeting was rescheduled for the following evening.

The agenda and new meeting date were not posted until the day the meeting was supposed to occur on Sept. 8, instead of 72 hours in advance as required by law.

That is not sufficient notice, according to the Brown Act.

Governing Board President John Halcon said he didn't know about the agenda not being posted.

"That's news to me," Halcon said.

He explained that the five-member board approves the final agenda right before the open session meeting.

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Adrian Gonzales, Palomar College's interim president, discusses campus issues at the Governing Board meeting at Palomar College on Sept. 9, 2015. Lou Roubitchek / The Telescope