General Recommendations
October 15, 2003
Accreditation Briefing*

1. SFCC has developed a strategic plan to guide its future development. However, SFCC is one part of a multi-unit district that includes two other instructional units (Spokane Community College and the Institute for Extended Learning). Since the district itself has yet to develop a detailed and specific strategic plan of its own, it cannot be determined if SFCC's strategic plan assumes roles and responsibilities that are consistent with the district's vision for the college. It is recommended that the Community Colleges of Spokane District develop a strategic plan that clarifies "authority, responsibilities, and relationships" among its constituent institutions. (Standards 6A., 6A.1., 6A.4)

2. SFCC makes a serious effort to support professional development, but this effort is compromised by the lack of financial resources needed to support professional development activities at an adequate level. It is recommended that SFCC increase its support for professional development activities. (Standard 4A.3)

3. SFCC does not have a fully implemented program of educational assessment. While some programs have developed student learning outcomes and other indicators of a mature, educational assessment program, many others have not done so. SFCC must quickly and decisively move to implement its educational assessment program in all of its instructional programs. (Standard 2B., Policy 2.2)

4. SFCC does not have governing board policies that guide "the use and limit of debt." Likewise, the college lacks a policy to guide its cash investment. The district governing board should adopt these required policies. (Standards 7A.4, 7C.4)

5. SFCC's institutional effectiveness program, whereby it "evaluates how well, and in what ways, it is accomplishing its mission and goals and uses the results for broad-based continuous planning and evaluation," has not been fully implemented and institutionalized. SFCC needs to settle on a workable institutional effectiveness model and implement that model with resolve. (Standard 1B.)

*Delivered by Michael Holland, Chair of SFCC Evaluation Team, NASCU