

ACCJC Accreditation Update: Regular and Substantive Interaction (RSI)

Board Study Session
March 8, 2025



RSI Collaboration

Accreditation Liaison Officer & VP Instruction	Kelly Fowler
Faculty Accreditation Coordinators	Allie Frickert (Coordinator) Hong Guo (Co-Coordinator)
Assistant Dean, Accreditation and Planning	Lianne Greenlee
Faculty Association	Emily Woolery (President) Joshua Christ (Vice President)
Academic Senate	Tania Anders (President) Raul Madrid (Vice President) Shelley Doonan (Vice President)
Distance Learning (DL) Team	Catherine McKee (DL Coordinator) Romelia Salinas (Dean Library, Learning Resources & DL) Katie Datko (Director of DL & Instructional Technology) Michelle Newhart (Instructional Designer)
RSI Coordinators	Jenny Gernhart Sheila Wright

ACCJC Commission Action

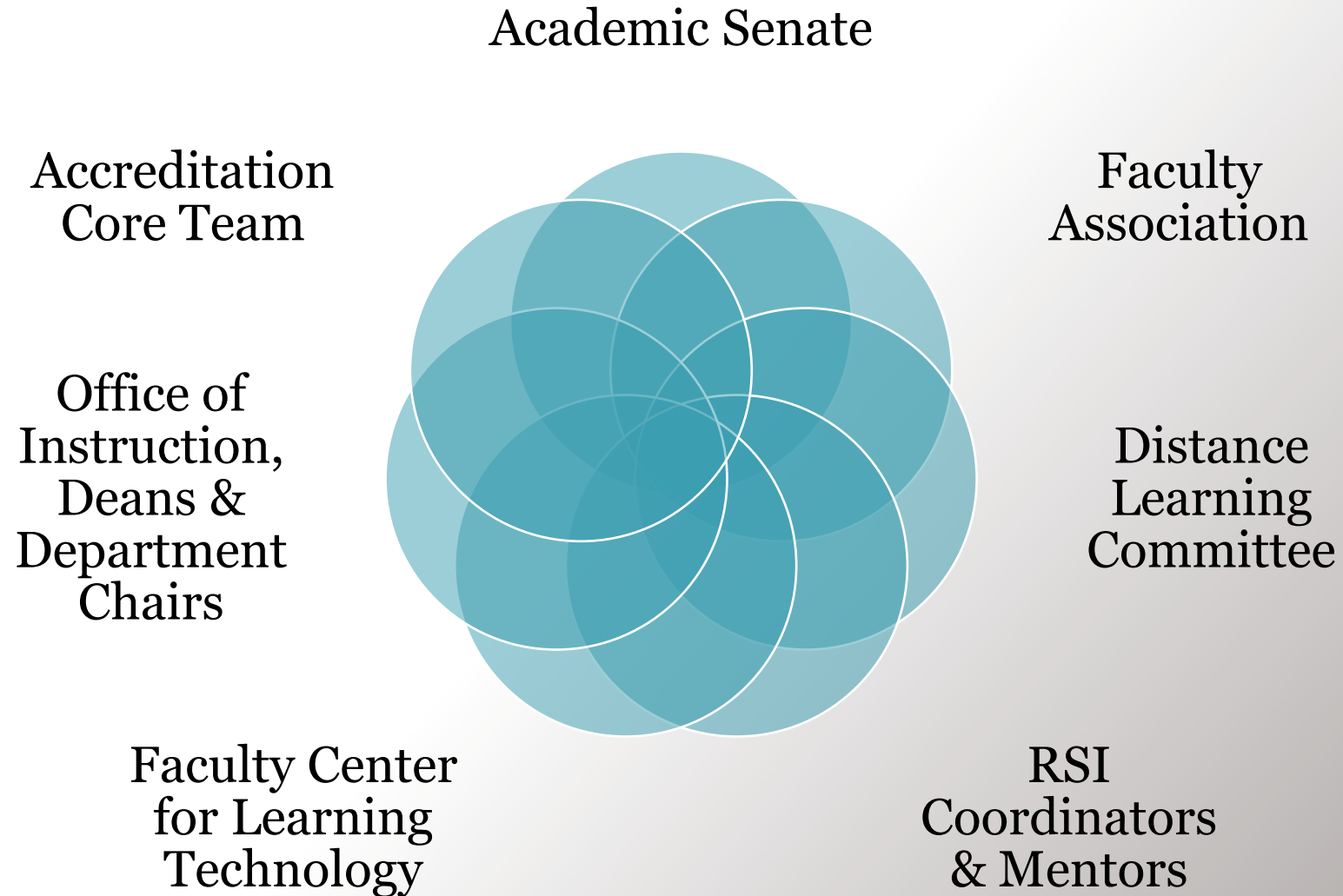
Recommendation on RSI

“Standard II.A.7 and Policy on Distance Education and Correspondence Education:

*In order to meet the Standard(s), the Commission requires that the college **ensure that regular and substantive interaction (RSI) takes place in distance education courses.**”*

**Accreditation for 18 Months
Requiring a Follow-Up Report with Visit**

Coordinated Efforts



Academic Senate Actions

1

Academic Senate
RSI Task Force,
Report, and
Recommendations
March 2024

2

Academic Senate
Resolutions: Mt.
SAC and ASCCC
April 2024

3

RSI Mentoring
Program: Initiation
May 2024

4

ACCJC RSI
Initiative: Faculty
Leadership and
Participation
Summer 2024

5

Implementation of
RSI Peer
Mentoring Process
Fall 2024

ACCJC Enhanced Support for DL Quality



ACCJC recognizes that as online education has grown, federal regulations for RSI have also increased. Failing to meet these regulations can lead to serious consequences at the federal level relating to financial aid.



ACCJC has developed new resources to help colleges demonstrate quality in distance learning programs:

Rubric for Distance Learning/Education
DL Assessment Tool for Peer Reviewers
Frequently Asked Questions

Faculty Association Actions



Article 13 RSI Side Letters –
Updated to meet emerging needs

May 23, 2024

November 27, 2024

December 20, 2024



Ongoing communication with Distance Learning faculty



Weekly meetings with RSI collaborators

Coordinated Communication

Joint Emails

Mailed Letters

Division Leadership (Deans & Chairs)

DL Faculty email List (DL Coordinator)

Online RSI Forums (Faculty Center for Learning Technology)

RSI Website & Canvas Shell (RSI Coordinators)

Monday Minutes (Office of Instruction)



FCLT* Collaboration

RSI Website

RSI Workflow

RSI Canvas Shell

RSI Data Dashboards

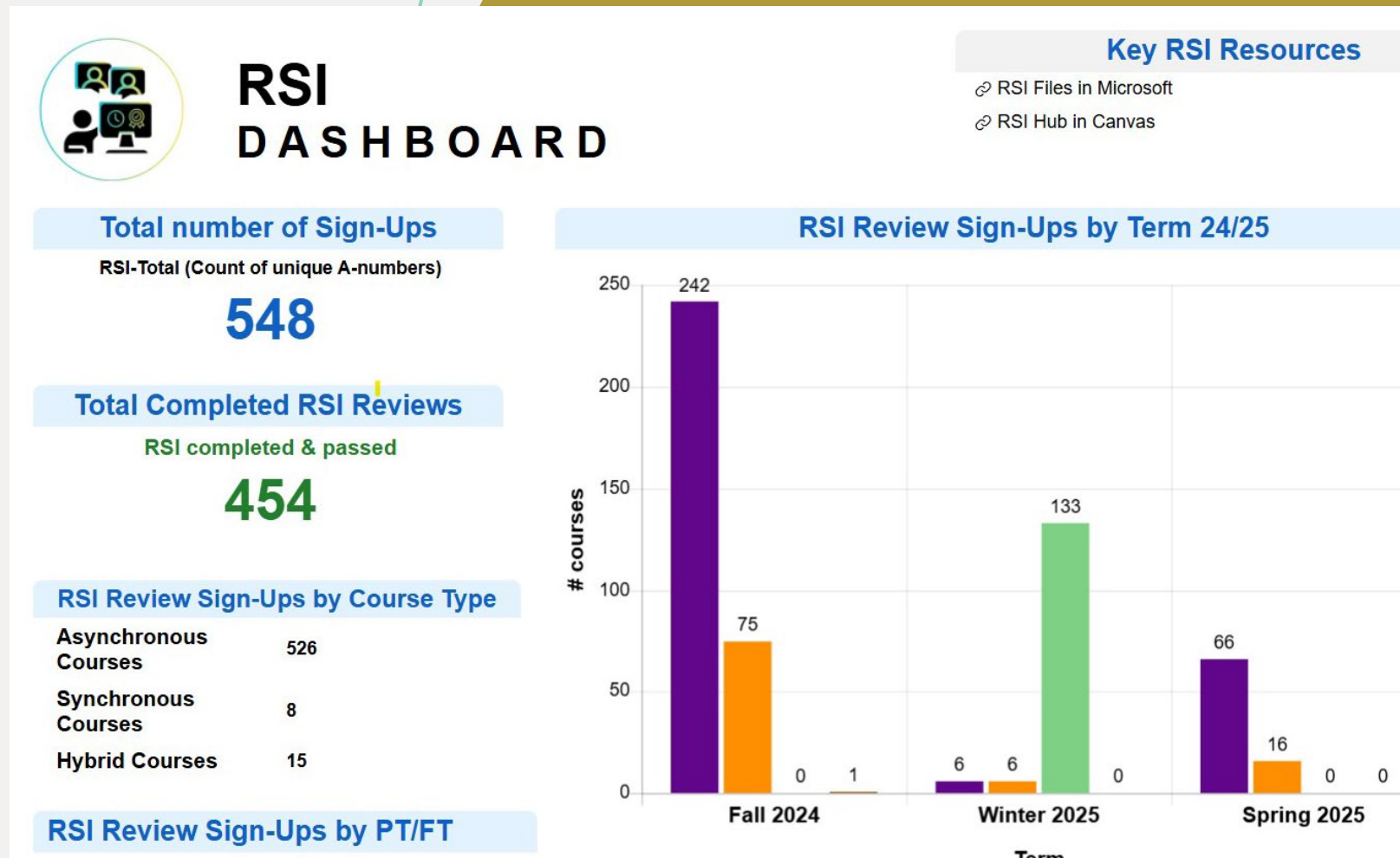
RSI Canvas/Course Reports

RSI Bulletins

RSI Workshops & Support

RSI Coordinators and RSI Mentors

- RSI Coordinators: Jenny Gernhart and Sheila Wright
 - Guided review process
 - Internal audit of 100 asych Spring classes
- RSI Mentors: Julie Bray-Ali, Allie Frickert, Shireetha Gethers, Hong Guo, Mike Hood, Carol Impara, Catherine McKee, Jinsun Park, Sandra Weatherilt



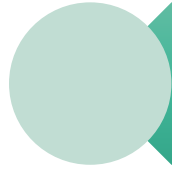
RSI Mentors: The power of one-on-one training and support

- **Collaborative Norming Process for the RSI Mentors**
 - Leveraged ACCJC Guidelines
 - Accreditation Experiences
- **Every review was personalized**
- **Over 1300 Hours of Mentoring Work**

"I not only understand [RSI], I have come to really appreciate it. It has made me feel more present with my students, more like it was in the actual classroom."

"You made what started out as a stressful experience, a positive one that has me energized to work with FCLT to upgrade the rest of my courses. That is exactly how I was hoping that I would feel when I first signed up for RSI review because I realize that my online classes need improvement to make them better for Mt. SAC students."

RSI Mentoring by the Numbers: Celebrate!



548 Faculty Signed Up For Review



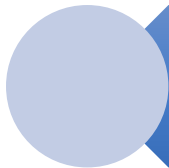
454 faculty Have Completed RSI Review



189 Passed On Initial Review



264 Passed After Feedback



Over 90% of Spring DL faculty Passed (So Far!)

RSI Sustainability and Long-term Planning

Faculty Bargaining Agreement

- RSI rubric and regular review now contractual

Distance Learning Committee work in 2024:

- RSI in SPOT
- New Distance Learning Handbook
- Revised AP 4105
- Updated the DL amendment form for curriculum
- SPOT 4-year Re-certification includes RSI

DLC 2025 plans:

- Canvas tools ReadyGo in pilot to measure RSI
- Expected changes to SPOT recert rigor
- Re-evaluated state-wide DL Training in lieu of SPOT

Follow-up Report



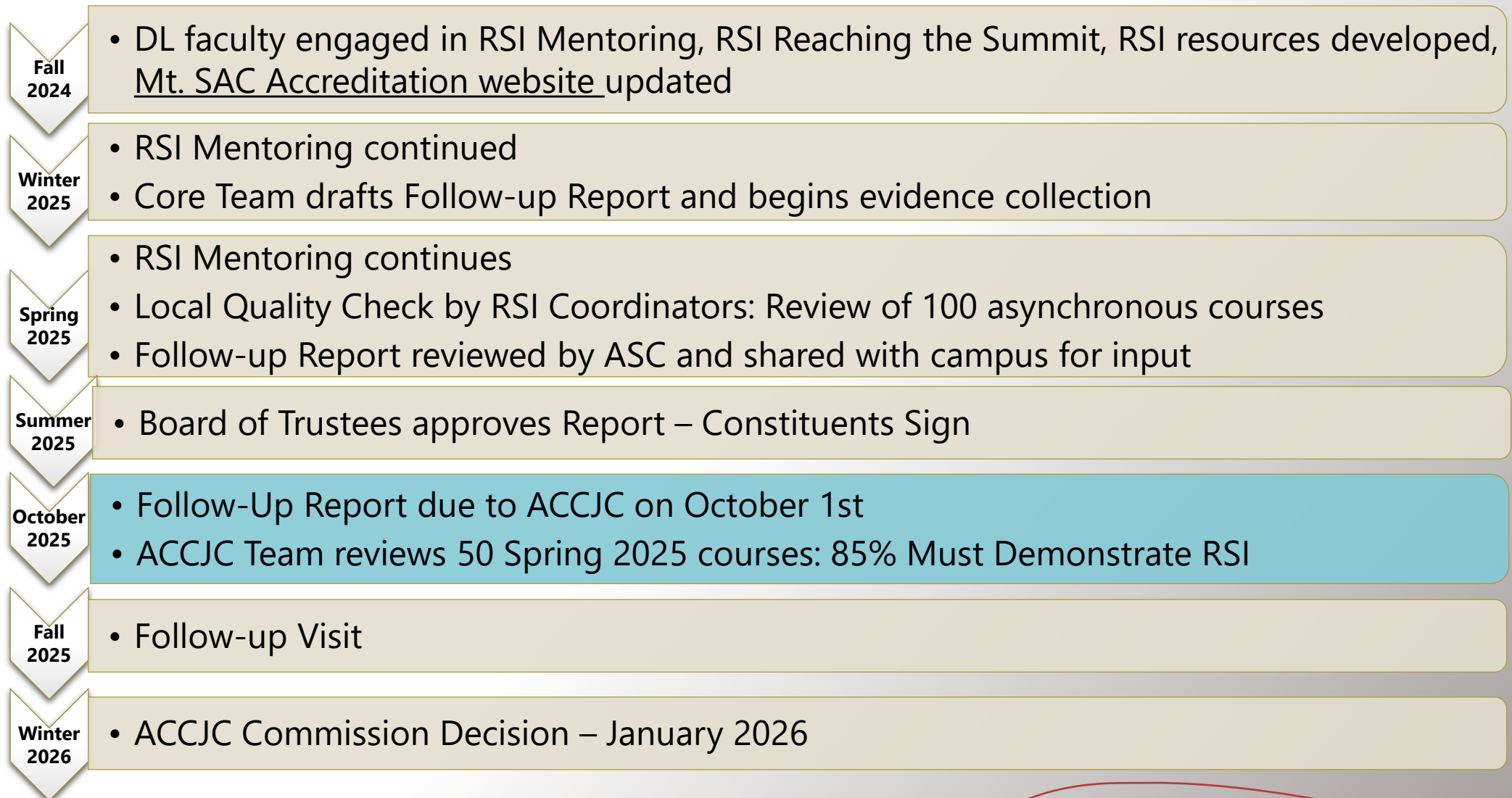
Written Response to identified RSI Compliance Requirements



ACCJC Team RSI Review

- ✓ In Fall 2025, the ACCJC Team will review 50 randomly pulled asynchronous online courses that conclude in Spring 2025
- ✓ At least 85% of the 50 courses must show compliance with the federal policy on RSI as outline in the ACCJC Rubric
- ✓ Margin for error: 7 courses

Timeline for ACCJC Follow-Up Report





Questions?