

August 3, 2007

The Board of Trustees of New College wishes to make the following statement:

We regard New College as one of the most significant institutions to emerge from the idealism of the social movements of the 1960s. For more than 35 years the College has been steadfast in its support for providing a progressive education to those who have lacked the opportunity to get one. The College has gone to great lengths, with limited financial resources and significant sacrifices by those who have sustained it, to support the hope that human beings can come together and pool their inherent goodness and depth of insight to create a more just, sacred, and sustainable world—a world founded upon peace, love, and a recognition of our fundamental equality as sacred vessels of a common spark.

We wish to now affirm to the New College Community that at this challenging moment in our history, we will do everything in our power to preserve the College's accreditation by assuring that the College comes into full compliance with all WASC standards. While we do not agree with everything in the WASC Commission letter placing the College on probation, we do recognize that the College must take decisive steps to improve financial, administrative, and academic practices. We also recognize that we must accomplish these changes without compromising New College's unique mission and its commitment to social change and social justice. To this end the Board has yesterday unanimously acted to:

1. Accept Martin Hamilton's resignation as President effective September 15. Martin is on a leave of absence effective August 2, 2007.
2. Appoint Board member Luis G. Molina as Acting President.
3. Direct the Acting President to form a search committee for an Interim President.

During the coming weeks, we will continue to work intensively to accomplish our goals, meeting regularly with the community to receive your wisdom and to share ours, such as it is, with you. We greatly appreciated your comments at the open session last Tuesday evening, and we will schedule another such session to continue this important dialogue early next week.

Thank you for your commitment to New College and to the creation of a just, sacred, and sustainable world.