MJC Retreat: Assessment – Reflection – Celebration!

May 4, 2017

Summary

Participants:

Agenda:

9:00   Celebration! Institutional Accomplishments
9:45   Reflection (Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool)
10:45  Accreditation
11:45  Lunch
12:30  Educational Master Plan
2:00   Break
2:15   Council and Committee Planning
3:25   Evaluation
3:30   End

Celebration! Institutional Accomplishments:

Academic Senate President Curtis Martin and President Stearns presented highlights of 2016/17.

- Football 2016 Valley Conference Champions
- MJC’s Jay Green - Valley Conference Player of the Year
- Women’s Tennis #1 Ranked Singles Athlete
- Women’s Golf 4th in California
- Wrestling ranked 8th in California
- Wrestler Noor Katham #1 in 157lb weight class
- 7 women’s soccer athletes named to BIG 8 Academic Team
- Science Colloquium
- MAPS
- Science Night at the Great Valley Museum
• Earth Day Celebration
• Great Valley Museum
• FFA Field Day 2017
• Statewide Collegiate Discussion Meet
• Last Breakfast Scholarship
• Achievement gains
• Common Ground: Culture in California’s Central Valley Conference
• MJC Art Gallery Exhibits
• American College Dance Association Conference
• AA Degree in Dance Received Final State Approval
• Recitals, Concerts, Performances, and Special Events
• Top 50 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence
• Top 10 Frontier Set Network Grant
• CA Guided Pathways College
• MJC 2016-2021 Strategic Plan
• MJC Educational Master Plan
• Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER)

Curtis and Jill also shared MJC student success initiatives at scale.

• ELIC credit English Language course series
• English Language Learner Welcome Center
• ENGL 45
• ENGL 100
• Reading Apprenticeship
• Information Literacy Non-Credit courses
• Tutoring
• First Time in College Course COLSK 100
• New Math non-credit course series
• MJC mobile app
• Technology facilitated communication
• Dual Enrollment through CCAP K-12 partnerships
• New Student Days
• Pirate Days
• HUMAN-101 redesign
• New multiple measures placement guidelines
• Success Pathways Centers
• Bus pass
• Men of Color Collaborative
• Umoja Academic Learning Cohort
• Program Student Clubs
• ADN fourth semester nursing student interviews
• Program, department, division student engagement events
• Professional Development/Design Support for retention and success
• Student Success Specialists
  • Embedded in divisions
  • Engaged in department meetings
  • Consistent presence in area high schools
  • Intrusive advising model first year support
• CTE program completion ceremonies include job fairs
• Book Reading and Discussion Project *Redesigning America’s Community Colleges*

**Reflection (Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool)**

Participants worked independently through the Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool (ICAT). The ICAT is provided by Achieving the Dream to network colleges as an evaluation instrument for assessing the capacity of the institution in seven areas: Leadership and Vision, Data and Technology, Equity, Teaching and Learning, Engagement and Communication, Strategy and Planning, Policies and Practices. The ICAT results will frame an evaluation session, a World Café activity, which is an effective exercise in self-evaluation for assessing status and readiness for institutional transformation. It will also serve as a basis for planning year three in fall 2017 with MJC ATD coaches John Nixon and Ken Gonzalez.

**Accreditation**

Vice President of Student Services, Dr. James Todd, provided an overview of the Standards leading to group work exploration of Standard I.B.6 on student learning outcomes. A walk through the comprehensive visit scheduled for October 2-5, 2017 highlighted the significant changes as compared to the 2011 visit. The preparation of the visiting team, including pre-writing of the evaluation report, was discussed.

**Educational Master Plan**

Representatives of the EMP workgroup, Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Jennifer Hamilton, Academic Senate President, Curtis Martin, Director of Grants and Resource Development, Jenni Abbott, Professor of Computer Science, John Zamora, Faculty Accreditation Chair and Professor of Business Administration, Dr. Nancy Sill provided an overview of MJC’s Educational Master Plan with an emphasis on the workgroup structure and implementation plan.

**Council and Committee Planning**

Participants worked in council and committee groups to outline a timeline for the EMP projects that connect to the role and responsibility of their governance body. These timelines will form the basis for the annual calendar of each council and committee to support timely completion of each of the EMP activities.

The council and committee groups next identified communication strategies for building awareness of, participation in, and enthusiasm for the Educational Master Plan. The communication strategies identified included:
Institute Day  
Web page  
Broadcast voicemail  
Workgroup reports in councils  
Print newspaper

College hour 2x/semester  
Screen savers  
Monitors on campus  
Text links  
Campus Life Town Halls  
Video updates

Face to face meetings  
Student Senate meetings  
Department meetings  
Division meetings  
Incentivize web visits  
Social media

Next, the council and committee groups were asked to identify challenges that may emerge as the transformational work established in Educational Master Plan begins. Identification of anticipated challenges affords the opportunity for work groups to be proactive in avoiding and addressing the impediments. Anticipated challenges include:

- Awareness is not the same as taking action.
- Maintaining environment of mutual respect and trust.
- Building engagement with this community.
- Faculty and staff buy-in.
- Educating others to follow through with the plan.
- Running a college on an 8 month schedule.
- Engage the critical mass.
- Constant need to clarify to those who are not participating.
- Individualized educational services for student.
- Cultural sensitivity and authentic engagement.
- Timely and better (communication?) with community stakeholders.
- Accountability.
- Resistance to change.
- Releasing classified staff to be involved.
- Trust.
- Belief that we’ll follow through.
- Staying focused through completion.
- Number of bodies to fill these seats. (work groups)
- Turn around time for curriculum approval.
- Innovation.
- Finishing the work before any new initiatives or programs being introduced.
- Role or task ambiguity.
- Milestones.
- Understanding that student education and support is all personnel’s responsibility.
- Communication between council and committee representatives and their groups.

Evaluation
Throughout the day some “great ideas” were captured. Each of these great ideas was directly tied to communication strategies and links directly to addressing one or more of the anticipated challenges noted above.

A simple survey was used to provide feedback on the MJC Retreat.

What didn’t work?

- Air conditioning
- Groups needed clearer direction on connecting EMP to their council, didn’t understand what to do or produce in this segment

Suggestions for next time?

- Earlier communication of the date
- Expanded participation
- More group work

Overall, the participation and response was incredibly positive! Participants noted that the collaboration across constituencies, pace, group work, enthusiasm, agenda, and in-house presenters were among the things that worked and made the day a success.