

## **Feedback – Draft Mission Statement, May 2014 (to College Council 5-13-14)**

### **DRAFT Mission Statement:**

*Monterey Peninsula College is an open-access institution that facilitates student learning and achievement within its diverse community. MPC provides high quality instructional programs, services, and infrastructure to support the goals of students pursuing transfer, career training, basic skills, and life-long learning opportunities.*

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### **From AAAG (May 2014):**

Monterey Peninsula College is an [or a welcoming] open-access institution that facilitates [or fosters] student learning and achievement within its diverse community. MPC provides high quality instructional programs, services, and infrastructure to support the goals of students pursuing transfer, career training, basic skills, and life-long learning opportunities.

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### **From Academic Senate (May 2014):**

At its May 1 meeting, the Academic Senate conditionally endorsed the Draft MPC Mission Statement as follows.

“Monterey Peninsula College is an open-access institution that facilitates student learning and achievement within its diverse community. MPC provides high quality instructional programs, services, and infrastructure to support the goals of students pursuing transfer, career training, basic skills, and life-long learning opportunities.”

The concern is about the term “life-long learning”. The Academic Senate endorses the statement on the condition that the institution engages in productive dialog to define life-long learning, and then communicates the definition to the campus community at large.

The Academic Senate recognizes that a purpose of the mission statement is to convey the “*what*” of the institution, but not necessarily the “*how*”. In this case, the “*what*” is kind of students the institution seeks to serve, and the “*how*” is the manner by which educational opportunities are offered to these students.

As a result, the Academic Senate endorses the draft mission statement because it believes that it encompasses and embraces the wide range of educational goals among members of our community. But the term life-long learning means many things to many different people. As the institution engages in conversation about its goals and objectives for the next few years, and as changes continue to sweep across broad swaths of its curricular offerings, it is critical that the entire institution understand the meaning of the district’s intended student population. Broad dissemination of this information is critical for informed conversations about how the institution will continue to serve the wide range of educational goals of the members of our community.