

Introduction

This document summarizes the expectations of our accreditors related to the development of the mission statement and its integration into institutional planning. This document also outlines the historical context for the evolution of those processes that MPC developed in order to remain in compliance with these expectations.

Accreditation Standards Relevant to Institutional Mission

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) evaluates institutional effectiveness, in part, by looking closely at how the institution develops its mission statement, communicates its meaning, and integrates the mission into institutional decision-making processes.

The following standards address the mission statement explicitly:

- I:** The institution demonstrates strong commitment to a mission that emphasizes achievement of student learning and to communicating the mission internally and externally. The institution uses analyses of quantitative and qualitative data and analysis in an ongoing and systematic cycle of evaluation, integrated planning, implementation, and re-evaluation to verify and improve the effectiveness by which the mission is accomplished.
- IA:** The institution has a statement of mission that defines the institution's broad educational purposes, its intended student population, and its commitment to achieving student learning.
- IA2:** The mission statement is approved by the governing board and published.
- IA3:** Using institutional governance and decision-making processes, the institution reviews its mission statement on a regular basis and revises it as necessary.
- IA4:** The mission of the institution is central to institutional planning and decision making.

As communicated in the standards, the Commission expects to see that the review of the mission occurs through governance and decision-making processes and incorporates the interests of the institution's key constituencies.

MPC cited "establishing a formalized process for regular review of the mission statement" as a self-identified planning agenda in its *2003 Institutional Self Study in Support of Reaffirmation of Accreditation*.¹ The goal of this planning agenda was to develop a succinct, accessible statement that could assist the college in prioritizing its programs and services.

Current Mission Statement

MPC's current mission statement was originally adopted by the Governing Board on 22 July 2008.² The Board reaffirmed the mission statement at its 24 May 2011 meeting.³

¹ See page 5-6.

<http://www.mpc.edu/information/accreditation/Previous%20MPC%20Reports%20and%20Self%20Studies/2003%20Self%20Study.pdf>

² Minutes, Governing Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 22 July 2008.

<http://www.mpc.edu/information/accreditation/Standard%201A/MinutesJuly22,2008.pdf>.

Mission Review & Revision Process: General Background

Currently, College Council holds the institutional role of spearheading the dialogue around the mission statement and presenting a recommendation about revision or re-affirmation to the Superintendent/President for presentation to the Governing Board. This responsibility, along with other strategic planning functions, was transferred to the College Council when the Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC) was disbanded during the 2005-2006 academic year. (Additional detail about the transition from the SPSC to College Council can be found in MPC's 2007 Midterm Report to the ACCJC.⁴)

MPC's current planning and resource allocation process, originally developed by College Council in the 2006-2007 academic year, stipulates that the mission statement should be reviewed every three years and revised if necessary. College Council incorporated triennial review of the mission statement into the planning cycle not only to tie planning and resource allocation directly to the mission, but also to formalize regular and systematic review of the institutional mission and goals. At the request of College Council, governance groups on campus discuss the mission and provide feedback. Based on this feedback and its own discussions, College Council provides an institutional recommendation to the Superintendent/President regarding any revisions to the mission statement that might be appropriate. (This discussion also provides a foundation for the institution as it forms three-year goals.) As a member of College Council, the Superintendent/President plays an integral role in the dialogue around the mission statement. In past review cycles, the Superintendent/President has presented the College Council's institutional recommendations about the mission to the Governing Board for approval.

Mission Review & Revision: Previous Two Cycles

To get a sense of how the above process functions in practice, it is helpful to review the past two review cycles. A timeline of events is listed below, followed by a narrative account of each cycle.

Timeline

- Fall 2007: College Council Mission Subcommittee formed
- 18 March 2008: Subcommittee presents proposed revisions
- Mid-March/Early April 2008: Shared Governance Review
- 29 April 2008: College Council recommends revisions to S/P
- 24 June 2008: Revisions presented to Governing Board by S/P
- 22 July 2008: Governing Board adopts revised mission statement
- 19 October 2010: College Council recommends retaining current mission statement to S/P
- 24 May 2011: Governing Board reaffirms current mission statement as part of its adoption of 2011-2014 Institutional Goals

2008 Mission Review & Revision Process

In 2007-2008, College Council appointed a subcommittee to review the 2003 mission statement and discuss its importance and currency. The subcommittee proposed a revised mission statement⁵ that

³ Minutes, Governing Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 24 May 2011. See Consent Agenda Item O. <http://www.mpc.edu/GoverningBoard/Meeting%20Agendas/5.24.2011%20Minutes.pdf>.

⁴ <http://www.mpc.edu/information/accreditation/Previous%20MPC%20Reports%20and%20Self%20Studies/2007%20Midterm%20Report.pdf>.

⁵ College Council Minutes, 18 March 2008. See agenda item 4.

<http://www.mpc.edu/collegecouncil/College%20Council%20Minutes/College%20Council%20March%2018,%202008/College%20Council%20March%2018%202008%20Minutes.pdf>.

Mission Review and Revision Processes at MPC Executive Summary

was then distributed for review and input to constituency groups (including the Academic Senate, Academic Affairs Advisory Group, Student Services Advisory Group, and Administrative Services Advisory Group). The Mission Subcommittee considered and incorporated the feedback, and presented the revised draft of the mission statement to the full College Council.

At its 29 April 2008 meeting,⁶ College Council recommended to the Superintendent/President that the revised mission statement be presented to the Governing Board for consideration and adoption. The Governing Board heard and considered the revised mission statement at its 24 June 2008⁷ meeting, and voted to adopt at its 22 July 2008 meeting.⁸

2011 Mission Review & Revision Process

Following its regular triennial cycle for reviewing the mission statement and institutional goals, College Council initiated discussion about the mission statement at its 17 August 2010 meeting.⁹ Informed by discussions of the 2007-2010 institutional goals, College Council recommended that the institution retain its current mission statement at its 19 October 2010 meeting.¹⁰

The mission statement was presented to the Governing Board for reaffirmation at the 26 April 2011 meeting, alongside the 2011-2014 Institutional Goals.¹¹ The Board reaffirmed the mission statement and approved the 2011-2014 Institutional Goals on 24 May 2011.¹²

⁶ See agenda item 3b, page 3.

<http://www.mpc.edu/collegecouncil/College%20Council%20Minutes/College%20Council%20April%2029%202008/College%20Council%20April%2029%202008%20Minutes.pdf>.

⁷ See page 7. <http://www.mpc.edu/GoverningBoard/Meeting%20Agendas/MinutesJune242008.pdf>.

⁸ <http://www.mpc.edu/GoverningBoard/Meeting%20Agendas/MinutesJuly22,2008.pdf>.

⁹ College Council Minutes, 17 August 2010. See agenda item 3c, page 3.

<http://www.mpc.edu/collegecouncil/College%20Council%20Agendas%20and%20Minutes%202010/September%2007%202010/College%20Council%20August%2017%202010%20Minutes-DRAFT.pdf>.

¹⁰ See agenda item 2b, page 1.

<http://www.mpc.edu/collegecouncil/College%20Council%20Agendas%20and%20Minutes%202010/October%2019,%202010/College%20Council%20Oct%2019%202010%20Minutes.pdf>.

¹¹ See College Council report to the Governing Board, page 4, and New Business item G, page 9.

<http://www.mpc.edu/GoverningBoard/Meeting%20Agendas/4.26.2011%20Minutes.pdf>.

¹² Minutes, Governing Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 24 May 2011. See Consent Agenda Item O.

<http://www.mpc.edu/GoverningBoard/Meeting%20Agendas/5.24.2011%20Minutes.pdf>.