October 27, 2014

Reorganization of Instruction

It is an understatement to say this has been a busy semester. However, there are many important steps being taken to position Mountain View College to be a stronger institution instructionally. One step specifically is the reorganization of instruction. A taskforce has been working on this structure for several weeks. The proposal was presented this past Tuesday following the annual curriculum meeting. The purpose of the forum was to seek feedback and make adjustments based upon additional campus information. The structure, prior to the meeting, can be seen below.

At the meeting, there were additional suggestions that will be taken back to the taskforce including placing Criminal Justice within CTE and moving Nursing to be part of a separate Health division that will include the new Occupational Therapy Assistant program. In addition, the names of the divisions are still be discussed. Once completed, this new structure will position instruction to be innovative, have more cross-discipline collaborations, and respond to the new college and district initiatives. In addition, the new structure will bring more balance to the divisions. The graphs to the right show the current versus the proposed division enrollment distributions.
In addition to this structure, MVC will also implement faculty leads that will be compensated based upon several factors including the number of part-time faculty members, courses, and responsibilities (i.e. Career and Technical Programs) within the disciplines. See below for a list of lead duties.

**FACULTY LEAD DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Develop class schedules for all semesters/terms.
- Facilitate selection and ordering of all textbooks for all courses in the discipline for each semester/term.
- Provide feedback to the dean related to division goals and objectives and budget planning.
- Assist in recruiting, interviewing, and orienting adjunct faculty.
- Provide quality reviews of off-site dual credit courses (i.e. syllabi reviews, visitations, mentoring, etc.)
- Serve as assessment lead for the discipline
- Provide information to full time and adjunct faculty in the discipline as appropriate.
- Supervise and evaluate up to ten adjunct faculty and/or instructional support staff each academic year.
- Assist in the handling of student complaints.
- Analyze and evaluate program reviews in the discipline in consultation with the division dean.
- Coordinate departmental syllabi and departmental tests when applicable.
- Provide leadership in developing, implementing, and maintaining instructional delivery systems in the discipline.
- Serve as a member of the appropriate district discipline committee.
- Technical/Occupational coordinators will assist in:
  - compliance with regulatory agencies and licensing boards
  - support and leadership in program accreditation
  - coordinating advisory committees
  - vocational/technical reviews for THECB
  - marketing and recruiting of students in tech/occ programs

We welcome feedback regarding the new structure. If you have ideas or suggestions, you can email me or one of the taskforce members within your division. After a two week comment window, the committee will meet, discuss the suggestions, and then create an implementation plan. During this phase of the plan, we will discuss division location, personnel redistribution, hiring, and other logistical information. Based upon the work ahead, this new structure will be implemented over the course of the spring. By the beginning of the summer, this process should be fully completed.
**New Program Initiatives**

As part of an effort to serve the needs of the community, there has been a new focus placed upon implementing new programs that will (1) bring jobs to the area, (2) provide job-ready skills, and (3) appeal to individuals that are currently not taking part in the advantages of higher education. To respond to these needs, the college has been exploring six possible programs for implementation. These programs are:

- Retail and Loss Prevention
- Homeland Security
- Robotics
- Machinist
- International Business
- Psychiatric Technician

Each of these programs are level 1 certificates, meaning they are approximately two semesters in length (18-24 hours) and there are no TSI requirements. In addition, completers of these certificates can return to MVC and use the hours toward an Associates in Applied Science (AAS) Degree. The outlook for these programs are all positive with the Department of Bureau Labor Statistics citing 18%-24% employment increases by 2020 within the state of Texas.

The new program process is lengthy. A feasibility report, including job outlook statistics, employer data and surveys, estimated budget, enrollment plan, and college capability (i.e. facilities, location, etc.) must be completed. There are then several levels of approvals including the Technical Council, Vice Presidents’ Council, Presidents’ Cabinet, MHERC, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Dr. Valencia, who specializes in new program development, have been conducting much of the research along with Dean Diaz. There has also been valuable contributions from Dean Patricia Webb in Workforce Training and the PRIE office, who has been sending out student surveys. Faculty members including Professor Doug Keenan, Dr. Deb Yoder, Dr. Uihchung Cho, and many others have also been heavily involved in this process.

Once the exploratory stages are complete, the college will prioritize the programs and push for implementation in fall 2015. It is important to note that none of these programs are guaranteed approval. However, we do feel good about the opportunities each will bring to our community, local high schools, and current students.

These new programs are in addition to the Occupational Therapy Assistant program scheduled for approval by our Board of Trustees in November.
HDEV Redesign

Human Development has served as a success course for the college. Over the past several years, the student population has fluctuated for several reasons. With the implementation of the highly successful Learning Frameworks course, students have mainly taken HDEV if they are not eligible for EDUC 1300. In addition, due to new TSI standards, the enrollment in the course has decreased. Therefore, a small group has worked to redesign this course to emphasize college (specifically Mountain View College) preparation. Using literature from similar courses noted in a CCSSE study and the curriculum of student orientation, this new redesign will focus on skills and content that will help students understand how to navigate and receive assistance from the various departments and resources the college have to offer. There will still be basic life skills (i.e. money management, critical thinking, etc.), but there will also be an emphasis on unique MVC program offerings (CTE, Career Paths) and basic processes/programs such as eCampus and eConnect.

The new offering will be HDEV 0100, a one credit hour, eight week course. There will be an orientation for instructors teaching this course in mid November. The goal is for this course to be a major part of the college’s retention initiative.

Academic Outreach and Recruitment (Dual Credit)

We are in the final stages of the MVC Dual Credit restructuring. Pending board approval in November, Ms. Alice Atchison will take over as the new Director. She will be joining Ms. Jennifer Davila, who is the new Senior Development Specialist for the department, Ms. Katy Jordan, who just joined this past week as an academic advisor, Mr. Sherwin Hunte, current advisor that has played a significant role in maintaining Dual Credit during this transition period, and the invaluable department assistants, Ms. Elena Garza and Ms. Latonya “Toni” Thompson.

Now referred to as the Academic Outreach and Recruitment department, this department will continue the renewed focus on K-12 partnerships through Dual Credit and TexPrep. Currently, the department is partnering with Instructional Support, the Testing Center, and the Instructional Deans to visit each feeder school and promote MVC dual credit opportunities and program/course offerings. Recent visits have strengthened relationships with the high schools as well as offered high quality free services to students such as on-site testing and TSI camps.

QEP Fall 2015 Courses

The QEP committee is seeking to expand Writing Enhanced and Writing Intensive Course offerings. Faculty interested in teaching these courses in fall 2015 should visit http://www.mountainviewcollege.edu/QEP/Pages/default.aspx and complete the proposal form. Approved faculty will receive a one-time contract for spring course development.

While we have already met the 2017 goals, this is not the time to slow down. It is the committee’s hope that the QEP can continue to be a college-wide initiative that will positively impact student learning.
Announcements

- Special Congratulations to Dean Auksuole Rubavichute for her completion of the DCCCD Basic Leadership program. Her graduation was Thursday, October 23rd. This accomplishment is an example of her commitment to being a strong leader for the college.

- If you are near W141 (Open Lab), then stop by and congratulate Ms. Vernessa Williams for her completion of the Personal Computer Support AAS degree. She has served the college diligently helping students and faculty with technical needs. Therefore, let’s celebrate this accomplishment with her.

- Please note that Nicholas Carr will be at Mountain View College Tuesday. For more information about the Common Book and related activities, please click the graphic below.

- I want to congratulate the Title V department and the adjunct conference taskforce for the successful Excellence in Teaching and Learning event this past weekend. The focus of the event was engagement and the sessions were truly engaging. Keynote speaker Mario Rivas was outstanding and the breakout sessions were wonderful. The materials and presentations from the sessions are currently being posted to the conference website located at http://www.mountainviewcollege.edu/Academics/Pages/2014ELTC.aspx.