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Philosophy Dimension Report McHenry County College

Foundations Institutions intentionally cultivate learning environments for new students that emerge from a philosophy of two-year colleges as gateways to higher education. The philosophy is explicit and easily understood. It is consistent with the institutional mission, reflects a consensus of internal and external constituencies, and is widely disseminated. The philosophy is also the basis for organizational policies, practices, structures, leadership, and resource allocation to support the new student experience.

Committee Leader:

Marilyn Zopp

Committee Members:

Patricia King

Jonna Kivisto

Wendy Moylan

Normah Salleh-Barone

Annette Waddelow

Current Situation:

PI 1.1:

Our research and discussions have indicated that McHenry County College does not have a general philosophy statement for use across departments.

- There is an implicit unwritten philosophy statement that is in use in The College Experience Department (MCC 101) and the Student Services area.
- Currently in the college catalog (pg.23) is a description of MCC 101 - the College Experience.

This course (MCC 101) is designed to help make your transition to college successful by focusing your academic goals, your skills and your understanding of how McHenry County College works.

- There is no general philosophy statement across departments.

PI 1.2:

Because we do not have a written philosophy statement, this should be a high priority and our first task. With a general philosophy statement, every department that serves the new student population should incorporate this statement into their mission statement.

Submit as an AQIP project to form a New Student committee to develop a philosophy for the first year student as one of its objectives.

Where should we publicize this? Every department that is involved with new students should incorporate the new statement into their mission statement.

PI 1.3:

This section is N/A because no philosophy statement currently exists.

Opportunities and Challenges:

PI 1.1:

- The college is making an investment in transforming the way in which the institution is providing a learning experience for new students.
- The college administration and the Board of Trustees are in full support of this project/plan according to information found in the Current Practices Inventory (CPI). In addition, the faculty/staff survey shows that administrators rated the value of a formalized philosophy for working with new students as high to very high.

PI 1.2:

- Submit as an AQIP project to form a New Student committee to develop a philosophy for the first year student as one of its objectives.

PI 1.3: N/A

Sources of Evidence:

PI 1.1:

Faculty/Staff Survey
College Catalog

PI 1.2:

PI 1.3:

- As no philosophy currently exist this whole section is N/A.

Refer to the evidence library for the philosophy template.

<http://www.fyfoundations.org/doc.aspx?id=167>

The survey results from the faculty/staff survey show that 69.8% feel that having a philosophy to guide the first year would be very important (84% combined scores of important or very important.). This clearly demonstrates support for this effort.

Recommended Grade: D-

Recommended Action Items:

- MCC 101 Evaluation Team (*High priority*)

To develop a philosophy statement for programs and services that impact the new student population.
Department Chair - Marilyn Zopp will head up this action item.