Components and Challenges of a Quality Educational Experience

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Background

On February 26, 2014, Beth Smith and Bonnie Ann Dowd were co-presenters at the Association of California Community Colleges Administrators (ACCCA) Conference at a concurrent session addressing educational quality. The session: “Hitting QE²- a “Quality Educational Experience” for California Community colleges in the 21st century” was well attended by several Chancellors, Presidents and other Executive, Senior, and mid-management Administrators, including some faculty in attendance at the conference from colleges throughout the state.

The concurrent session was promoted as follows: The mission of the California Community Colleges continues to evolve with newer and more complex demands being placed on faculty and staff. Recent legislation along with accreditation standards are emphasizing student outcomes and financial stability and viability in an era in which annual state funding is more and more uncertain and complex. Colleges are being asked to do long-term planning without any guarantee of short-term, never mind long-term, state funding. Technology has and will continue to change the way faculty teach and has become an ever increasing cost of education. Additional mandates and legislative expectations have increased without any changes to outdated and unfunded state mandates.

The session addressed the components of the cost of education at our community colleges in the 21st century. The focus of the session: How do colleges ensure that the business model supports education, with the target being on a Quality Educational Experience for our students, while not actually operating our colleges as a business?

Proposal

Report the outcome of the February 26, 2014 ACCCA Conference session by:
1. Providing factors identified by session participants that impact a colleges efforts to provide a quality educational experience for students.
2. Share some of the challenges and road blocks colleges face in their attempt to achieve a quality educational experience.
3. Recommend a framework for the Consultation Council to consider further examination of topics related to providing the best educational experience possible for students.