



Digest

Digest means an item that has been through internal review of the Chancellor's Office and the review entities. The item now has form and substance, and is officially "entered into Consultation." The Council reviews the item and provides advice to the Chancellor.

Title: Components of a Quality Educational Experience in our community colleges

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Background

The mission of California Community Colleges continues to evolve with newer and more complex demands being placed on faculty, staff, and students. California community college funding has been at the mercy of economic conditions, which is starting to begin a slow and hopefully, steady recovery. Funding of our colleges is uncertain, unpredictable, and in recent years' unreliable making it difficult for colleges to plan from one year to the next. However, colleges are also being asked to do long-term planning without any guarantee of short-term, never mind long-term funding.

Purchasing power for California Community Colleges have not kept up with the ever increasing costs of operations and costs of living for its employees. Technology has and will continue to change the way faculty teach and is an ever increasing cost in a college's annual budget. In addition, campus facilities are either old and require repair or they have been replaced with larger, high-end infrastructure buildings for 21st century education requirements that demand more and more of a college's annual budget.

The human resources to sustain many of our new buildings and the colleges in general are also in need of revitalization, and the colleges need more faculty, staff and administrators to meet the system goals of increased access and student success. Recent regulatory changes also point to the need for more services to assist students, and research shows that a personal connection with the college is the reason many students persist in their studies. However, recent and long-established laws and regulations also compete with each other resulting in unique challenges for our colleges.

Proposal

Consultation Council to have a standing agenda item to engage in dialogue regarding current and past policy, regulations, and laws to address the challenges that are unique to California community Colleges and how we might address them as a system to achieve student success while ensuring colleges remain fiscally responsible and committed to providing a quality educational experience for students.