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Institutional Planning

College Council integrates the institutional planning efforts of all organizations within the college. As previously mentioned, College Council sets the direction of the college through the assessment and review of the college's mission, vision, values, institution-set standards, and strategic goals. In addition, College Council plays a fundamental role in the annual integrated planning effort to ensure that all departments and units are participating in the process and that all constituent groups are represented for report-outs, discussions, and recommendations.

Review and Revision of the Mission and Other Guiding Principles

The mission, goals, vision, and values of Cerro Coso Community College define the college's purpose and identity and are the basis for institutional planning and the evaluation of institutional effectiveness. Institution-set standards are established, assessed, and published with respect to student achievement in relation to the institution's mission. And institutional priorities are set for the purpose of continuously improving student learning and achievement of the mission. In order to ensure that programs and services are aligned with the purposes of the college and district, as well as designed and organized to serve immediate and long range community needs, a formal procedure is established for the regular review and revision of mission statement and other guiding principles.

Systematic Three-Year Review

The mission statement, vision, values, institution-set standards, and strategic goals are reviewed once every three years in concert with RCCD's three-year district-wide planning effort. Starting in the most recent cycle, the colleges took the lead in reviewing and revising their guiding principles first in the spring of 2018, to be followed by a review and revision of RCCD's guiding principles in the fall.

The college president calls an ad hoc committee to accomplish this task instead of charging it directly to College Council. This ensures a broad base of input from engaged stakeholders. College Council still receives the report from the committee, discusses the review, reports to stakeholders for feedback, and votes to recommend to the president.

Triggered Review

An off-cycle review and revision may be called at any time by the president if recommended to do so by College Council or if, in the president's judgment, circumstances warrant it. Examples of such a triggering event might be:

- change in the California Community College system direction or focus
- sudden or profound demographic shifts in the service area
- significant local or state-wide economic developments
- other substantial variation in system status or student and community need

If it is found through the triggered review process that revisions to the mission statement and/or priorities are advisable, College Council will recommend that the president lead a process charged with the following:

- Conducting a thorough evaluation of the existing mission statement and planning priorities in light of the triggering condition.
- Holding informational forums for both internal and external constituencies at all campus locations to increase dialogue and gather the widest possible input.

- Drafting a revised mission statement and/or planning priorities. A revised mission statement must conform to the California Community College charge, Accreditation Standards, and the Kern Community College District mission. Planning priorities must be stated in measurable terms so that the degree to which they are achieved can be determined and widely discussed.
- Submitting revised statements and justifications for the recommended changes to College Council for discussion and refinement.
- Managing Board of Trustees approval pursuant to established governance procedures. If the process results in a revised mission statement, a substantive change proposal will be filed with the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC)

Annual Integrated Planning Process

Annually, beginning in October, departments develop and present annual unit plans (AUP's) to College Council. The AUP's inform section plans (November) and division plans (December), which in turn inform the resource request analyses for staff, facilities, marketing, information technology, professional development, and, starting in fall 2018, institutional research (February). These plans drive resource allocation and the yearly development of the college budget (April). The diagram below represents this annual institutional planning cycle, and the chart that follows provides a list of all college planning documents, frequency, and person responsible.

