Dear MJC Colleague,

A tremendous amount of time, energy, and effort has been directed at meeting the ACCJC Accreditation Standards as outlined in the recommendations from the Commission. I, again, express my deep appreciation for the great work that so many have done over the past several months to bring the college to the required level of proficiency in the areas of student learning outcomes and assessment leading to program improvement, creating a distance education plan, developing and implementing a consistent and transparent tracking system for faculty evaluation, reviewing and revising the college mission statement, and ensuring equitable student access across both campuses. Your collaborative effort has brought forth very positive change for the institution and the students we serve.

A major challenge to reaffirmation of accreditation remains, namely, implementation of changes to strengthen the college governance structure. A dedicated group of faculty, staff, students, and administrators met regularly over the last 8 months to begin this process. The group brought forth a proposed Participatory Decision-Making Handbook that establishes guiding principles for decision-making and delineates our current college governance structure. The guidelines for decision-making are outstanding, they establish a respectful and professional meeting environment that is conducive to participatory governance. Unfortunately, the existing structure is not sufficient to support integrated planning, including resource allocation, even with the recommended changes. I am certain that given time, a revised proposal would be drafted by the group that meets the Standards. As made clear in the technical visit, time is of the essence. We cannot delay implementing a participatory governance structure that supports evaluation of processes leading to improved institutional effectiveness.

I have attached a proposal that I shared this afternoon with the Academic Senate and that I will present to College Council on Monday, September 10, 2012, for consideration. The proposed council structure incorporates the work and recommendations of the taskforce while also providing:

- Clarity on the role of each constituency, college governance council, committee, and the president in decision-making
- Transparency of membership, charge, responsibility, and meeting information
- Opportunity for increased participation of faculty and staff in college governance councils
- Greater authority for constituencies to identify the best individuals to serve as representatives on each governance council
- Enhanced alignment to Title 5
- Delineation of processes for integrated planning
- Decision-making tied directly to the college mission

I am asking you for feedback on the proposed change of the college governance structure. Join me at an open forum Tuesday, September 10 from noon – 1:00 PM, for discussion and dialogue (location to be determined). The proposed structure is designed to establish venues for collegial dialogue and strong recommendations, based on shared data, that will lead to the best decision-making on behalf of the students of MJC. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and commitment to excellence.

Sincerely,