

Academic Support Services Division

Library & Learning Center Support for the Proposed Reorganization

April 2015

The last few months have seen extensive conversations about reorganizing MJC's structure in ways that better enable the institution to achieve its mission and increase student success. The Library & Learning Center supports these efforts and believes the proposal to include the L & LC alongside other academic support services is well considered and designed for student success. In particular, the four reasons outlined below - efficient organizational structure, integrated responses to ongoing initiatives, strategic planning and assessment, and vision and growth - underscore the key benefits of this new structure and our reasons for supporting it.

We urge the College administration and faculty leadership to continue discussions that include this part of the reorganization and look forward to working together to find the best structure for supporting student success.

Efficient Organizational Structure

Organizing academic support services under a single leader benefits student learning by facilitating collaboration among similar units and increasing institutional efficiency. The new division's proposed functions - BSI Director, Student Success Coaches, Instructional Designer, Distance Education Coordinator, and Library & Learning Center - fit naturally together as they are all interdisciplinary academic support services, working across the college to support instructional efforts and foster student success. At the same time, locating these functions in the same division creates administrative and staffing efficiencies that can enable more productive units at no additional cost.

Integrated Responses to Ongoing Initiatives

The proposed division is comprised of areas that play an integral role in the prominent higher education issues of the future, work that in California's community colleges is focused around the Equity, SSSP and Basic Skills initiatives. The Library & Learning Center is a complementary component of the division as it is directly involved in numerous actions enumerated in the plans, such as supporting the Student Success Coaches, participating in the First Time in College course, and providing the tutoring and Supplemental Instruction aspects of the BSI plan. Furthermore, integrating the Library & Learning Center in this new division will magnify the contributions we can make to the development of these ongoing initiatives.

Strategic Planning and Assessment

Under the new dean, MJC has the opportunity to elevate academic services through integrated strategic planning and assessment. With the guidance of one visionary leader and the combined efforts of all the areas in the new division, MJC can develop and implement a plan for integrated assessment that will look at the effects of academic support services on student engagement, retention, and success. We could then work as a cohesive division to plan strategically for

efficient and effective use of all academic services to meet students' needs as they relate to student learning.

Vision and Growth

A unified and complementary group of academic support services will help MJC grow FTEs through improved retention and success. By planning and working as a division in conjunction with instructional divisions, we can help break the College-wide barriers to student success and retention that we've experienced in the past. This new division can be the central place for students to access a range of services in support of learning in and out of the classroom as well as the place for faculty to meet their research needs.

Conclusion

In summary, the Library & Learning Center fully supports the originally proposed structure of the new academic support services division. Furthermore, we look forward to contributing our energies and talents to developing a robust, unified approach to academic support services that facilitate learning, equity, and success.