

Student Support

RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposal #1

Implement institution wide changes to Developmental Education.

Research the feasibility of a Department of Transitional (developmental) Education.

These changes need to be guided by the following principles:

Common goals and objectives should be developed, articulated and embraced by all those involved in developmental education.

A qualified and committed faculty should teach all developmental courses.

Developmental education needs to be fully integrated with the full range of academic support systems.

The institution needs to expand its developmental offerings, including tiered courses, based on the identified needs of under-prepared and at risk students. These courses should include not only offerings that address deficits in language skills, study skills, communication and mathematics but also discipline specific developmental courses designed to increase retention in high attrition courses.

Students identified as at risk or under prepared should be required to take developmental courses. These requirements should be strictly enforced.

The College must run developmental courses despite low enrollment.

These changes and their implementation should be directed by an individual with all the necessary authority to coordinate developmental education across departments.

Implementation: Spring 2009

Proposal #2

Establish an Office for the First Year Experience. This office would establish ongoing communication, promote student engagement, establish links to campus and community supports, and provide academic and social safety nets for all incoming students.

Implementation: Spring 2009

Proposal #3

A) In the Master Plan, include the construction of a multi use "Learning Commons", centralizing all student supports. Implementation: TBA

B) In the interim, reconfigure space to meet and centralize current student support service needs.

Implementation: ASAP

Proposal #4

Develop a strategy to create a culture of service learning and volunteerism. This strategy should incorporate meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

Implementation: Fall 2009

Proposal #5

Expand the services and staff of Institutional Assessment, Grants and Institutional Research, and Information Technology to collect information allowing data driven decision making. Expanded services should include a data warehousing system allowing for more effective assessment, forecasting, planning, and tracking. Additionally, these expanded services and staff should be used to aggressively seek grants and other outside funding sources to improve programming for student support, classroom initiatives, and the overall mission of the college.

Implementation: Fall 2008

Proposal # 6

The college should implement systems to promote student and academic department interactions aimed at building community. Each academic department should implement specific ongoing activities to foster and encourage student and faculty engagement that will promote a sense of shared academic experience, commitment to academic excellence, and belonging.

Implementation: Fall 2008

Proposals Previously Made (not included above)

The Team in its draft report recommended that MVCC implement "Quick Fixes" to some of the "missing" or "needs enhancement items". Some could be done for Fall 2008, others may require more time to put in place.

- Campus Locator Maps.
- More sections of ED 100 offered prior to the start of classes.
- Enforcement of pre-requisites – make them mandatory.
- Making sure students get a "degree checklist" showing their progress (paper or electronic) at the end of each term.
- Windows of opportunity for students closest to graduation to schedule classes first.