

TMCC Self-Study Standard Six Executive Summary of Findings

The findings of the Standard Six self-study committee, Governance and Administration, range from objective reiteration to subjective interpretation. The entire Planning Council Report is based on established and documented policy information in the areas where objective information could be verified, and on the Campus Climate Survey, and the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 Graduate Surveys. Most relevant in our findings is that, as with the 1995 report, a perceived lack of communication among faculty and staff is the greatest criticism of the administration. Also relevant is an apparent perception of a lack of opportunities for faculty and staff to be involved, though the experience of committee members and the comments of others in the climate survey indicate that this is not the same experience for everyone.

The overall objective of Standard Six is to determine that TMCC's "system of governance facilitates the successful accomplishment of its missions and goals." An examination of the institution's mission reveals that TMCC "provides access for lifelong learning opportunities," creates a "supportive, intellectually and culturally dynamic environment" and that it "anticipates and responds to educational needs of individuals to achieve their goals, aspirations, and dreams." While first glance may seem to indicate that this mission is intended for students only, the discoveries made in the research and review of the subjective responses from the campus community indicate that the TMCC system of governance works well for many people in achieving these goals and more, not only for students, but for the employees of the institution as well.

The measure in determining if, and in what way, the system relates to the mission has been determined in most part by the following reactions from faculty, staff and students. According to the Executive Summary of the 2004 Climate Survey, 60% of respondents believe the institutional environment encourages the open expression of ideas. This agreement supports the success of the mission where it states the goal of a "supportive, intellectually and culturally dynamic environment." The goal is further supported by the fact that 74% of respondents noted institutional sensitivity to cultural diversity, 62% of faculty and staff feel they are getting adequate training toward improving job skills, and 73% of respondents are satisfied with the conditions of their employment.

Students also weighed in favorably via TMCC's most recent Graduate Survey. With particular regard to the portion of the mission statement addressing "lifelong learning opportunities," 82% of students feel that studies at TMCC have prepared them to write clearly and correctly. This matches the 82% who felt the same way in 2003. 84% feel confident with their communication skills compared to 86% in 2003, showing virtually no drop-off, and 87% feel their intellectual interests were broadened, up from 85% in 2003. In similar regard to the mission goal of creating a "supportive, intellectually and culturally dynamic environment," students continue to find courses at TMCC to be intellectually stimulating (87% compared to 86% in 2003) and that their appreciation for other cultures is a strong 75% compared to 76% in 2003. Overall student approval rates remain high, with 2003 and 2004 both recording a 90% approval in TMCC's efforts to assist students in meeting expected goals, and maintained an 80%

approval rate in students feeling equipped for future career changes (79% in 2004). Finally, 88% of students in 2003 and 86% in 2004 feel that TMCC is equally supportive of men and women while support of racial/ethnic groups approval dramatically increased from 53% in 2003 to 82% in 2004, indicating success in both learning and diversity goals at the institution.