

September 12, 2005

TO: Governance Committee

From: Paul Dauphinais

RE: Request for Input

Recently a staff retreat and a similar gathering for faculty were held. At these meetings a number of questions were asked and the responses were very informative to me. The questions asked of each group were somewhat different but the basic premise for each group was similar: Where does MSC go from here? This is the first part of updating our strategic plan.

Seven questions were asked of the faculty. The questions and the responses, in rank order, are listed in the attachment to this memorandum. Several patterns emerged in the responses at both gatherings that struck me as important to the college.

The first is the responses to questions 1, 5 and 7. I have listed the questions in reverse order since we are looking at where we should spend our money and time and comparing that to what we think needs to be strengthened and/or modified.

Question 7: Mat-Su College should expend its time and money on:

Question 5: Which of the following should Mat-Su College Strengthen:

Question 1: Which of the following should Mat-Su College Modify:

	Quest.7	Quest 5	Quest 1
a) Academic Standards/Rigor	11	14	10
b) Professional Development	7	5	2
c) More upper division courses	5	6	2
d) The Practical Side of Liberal Education	5	3	4
e) Working with the Borough for 4-year programs	3	3	4
f) Assessment Testing	2	2	4
g) Summer Session/Courses	1	0	1
h) Pre-requisite enforcement	0	1	5
i) Unproductive Academic Programs/Courses	0	0	3
j) Remedial/Developmental Courses	0	0	0

These results show that the college is interested in improving the academic rigor of its course offerings, improving professional development across the college, and pursuing, in a limited fashion, more upper division courses and working with the borough. The results also show that the college is interested in doing away with unproductive programs/courses, summer session, and while it is interested in modifying prerequisite enforcement is not willing to put time or money into the effort.

Equally enlightening are the responses to questions 3 and 7.

Question 7: Mat-Su College should expend its time and money on:

Question 3: What should Mat-Su College discontinue:

	Quest.7	Quest 3
d) Academic Standards/Rigor	11	0
b) Professional Development	7	1
j) More upper division courses	5	1
i) The Practical Side of Liberal Education	5	2
g) Working with the Borough for 4-year programs	3	1
a) Assessment Testing	2	0
c) Summer Session/Courses	1	8
h) Pre-requisite enforcement	0	1
e) Unproductive Academic Programs/Courses	0	13
f) Remedial/Developmental Courses	0	2

The results of comparing questions 1, 5 and 7 appear to be corroborated by comparing questions 3 and 7.

While some of you may want to address more specific issues than those listed above it may be best to work on the broader issues first and take on the more detailed matters later. As with many things dealing with multi-level issues is an iterative process. By taking care of the major issues in a broad manner first we can then focus our efforts on more defined specific issues later. I ask that the Governance Committee discuss and provide me with input on the following 7 topics:

1) If we are to discontinue programs and courses, and even some activities, those discontinuances will affect us personally and professionally. While we know the metrics used by state-wide and others to determine productivity, what do we consider to be an unproductive program or course? How will we deal with discontinuing those areas and the personnel involved? One initial matter for discontinuing an academic program is to conduct a program review. If you have candidates for a program review with an eye toward discontinuing those programs please list them for me. The same does not necessarily hold true for functions. Are there functions or services that we might consider discontinuing?

2) Summer session has historically been based on excess revenue and has generally lost money. The summer session as we know it is clearly something that the college community is not interested in continuing. Are some offices or individuals amenable to going to less than 12 month contracts?

3 a) It seems clear that there is a desire for professional development across the college. In the face of ever tightening budgets how will we approach this? Will

resources rotate from area to area or will resources be dispersed via a competitive process?

b) One matter that was rarely mentioned on question 5 of the attachment was attendance and accountability. I would ask that this be one of the first issues addressed through professional development and that you provide a list of potential opportunities for the college community.

4) How will the college attend to the matter of academic standards a rigor across the college community including faculty, staff, students, and the community? This does not preclude working with other committees on campus.

5) While the college has a formal mission statement that we cannot change, I would welcome input describing a mission statement that reflects the reality of the college and that is congruent with the subjects you will be reflecting on as listed above.

6) Parallel to item #5, what are the things that the college values, or, what are our collective values?

7) I will continue to be in communication with the borough and UAA regarding upper division courses and the potential for four-year programs. If you desire to provide some input in that area I will be grateful.

I request that you provide me the outcomes of your discussions to me in writing by December 15, 2005. Should you have any questions on this charge please let me know so that we can discuss this face-to-face and in detail.

## Attachment 1—Poll outcomes from faculty gathering

1) Which of the following should Mat-Su College Modify:

d)	Academic Standards/Rigor	10
h)	Pre-requisite enforcement	5
g)	Working with the Borough for 4-year programs	4
i)	The Practical Side of Liberal Education	4
a)	Assessment Testing	4
e)	Unproductive Academic Programs/Courses	3
j)	More upper division courses	2
j)	More upper division courses	2
b)	Professional Development	2
c)	Summer Session/Courses	1
f)	Remedial/Developmental Courses	0

2) As a person sinks into debt financial counselors advise people to pay the smallest bill first, then take the money for that payment and apply it to the next largest bill and pay off all debt in that manner—from smallest to largest debt. As a growing institution Mat-Su College is beginning to develop some small metaphorical debts. These debts could begin to side track positive movement. Identify one small issue that may begin to side track forward momentum and provide one potential way to solve this small issue.

3) Which of the following should Mat-Su College Discontinue:

e)	Unproductive Academic Programs/Courses	13
c)	Summer Session/Courses	8
f)	Remedial/Developmental Courses	2
i)	The Practical Side of Liberal Education	2
g)	Working with the Borough for 4-year programs	1
h)	Pre-requisite enforcement	1
j)	More upper division courses	1
b)	Professional Development	1
a)	Assessment Testing	0
d)	Academic Standards/Rigor	0

4) Which TWO of the following potential new committees would you be willing to participate in:

b)	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Mind/Organization	9
c)	Blended Courses/Programs	9
d)	Faculty Development	6
a)	First & Second Year Experience	5

Other	1
e) None	0

5) Which of the following should Mat-Su College Strengthen:

n) Academic Standards/Rigor	14
t) More upper division courses	6
l) Professional Development	5
s) The Practical Side of Liberal Education	3
q) Working with the Borough for 4-year programs	3
k) Assessment Testing	2
r) Pre-requisite enforcement	1
m) Summer Session/Courses	0
o) Unproductive Academic Programs/Courses	0
p) Remedial/Developmental Courses	0

6) From the list below choose the one or two items you consider to be your strengths or the strengths of your department.

Potential areas of strength:

Job knowledge

Planning and organization

Work quality

Initiative

Analysis of problems

Communication

Creativity

Decision making

Attendance and accountability

Adaptability

Interpersonal skills

7) Mat-Su College should expend its time and money on:

d) Academic Standards/Rigor	11
b) Professional Development	7
i) The Practical Side of Liberal Education	5
j) More upper division courses	5
g) Working with the Borough for 4-year programs	3
a) Assessment Testing	2
c) Summer Session/Courses	1
e) Unproductive Academic Programs/Courses	0
f) Remedial/Developmental Courses	0
h) Pre-requisite enforcement	0