

Rosaleen Ryan

From: A.J. Farrar
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2009 5:32 PM
To: Rosaleen Ryan
Cc: Gail L. Fail; Mary Nelson; Julie Bailey; Alfred Hochstaedter
Subject: MPC Mission Statement revisions and impact...

Rosaleen: As you requested at the recent college council meeting, I want to take this opportunity to relate to you an anecdotal observation that may be useful in your accreditation self study documentation.

When I arrived at MPC in August of 2001, I was given an excellent new employee orientation and helpful faculty handbook which I have referred to several times over the intervening years.

To the best of my recollection, there wasn't any mention of the MPC mission during those first few days.

I just did a quick scan of the copies of the MPC catalog that I have on hand in my office from 2001-2009 and I think I understand why.

The mission statement in 2001 filled a ¼ page space in the catalog and over the years grew to more than ¾ of a page. The mission statement became a voluminous document that included both the core mission and a long list of goals and objectives.

Clearly, the core mission statement got lost in all of the verbiage.

My background is in criminology/law enforcement and I have been trained to develop short, concise mission statements for organizations over the years.

I was not comfortable with our expanded mission statement during the last few years.

As a result, when our "new" revitalized mission statement was circulated for review and comment on campus, I was an early enthusiastic supporter of the changes.

It is clear to me that the shorter the mission statement the easier it is for all of us to relate to it and seek to achieve its purpose.

Recently, I had an occasion to illustrate its positive impact when I was invited to attend a California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) grant funded workshop on student learning outcomes (SLOs) and department/program mission statements.

I attended the event last week and took along our newest mission statement and a copy of my catalog entries which outline our SLOs for the Administration of Justice Department (ADMJ).

I was able to clearly articulate to my peers how I was able to participate in the campus wide dialogue process and our MPC revised mission statement aligns with our ADMJ Program and how I will be able to define and assess additional class SLOs in the future.

The attendees at this California Administration of Justice Educators Conference (CAAJE) were impressed with the work that MPC had done to revise its mission statement and prepare for our future assessment processes with WASC and ACCJC.

Ajf

Arthur James "A.J." Farrar, M.S.
Chairman, Administration of Justice Department (ADMJ)
Monterey Peninsula College (MPC)
Office - LS 106B
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940-4799
831-646-4004
831-645-1353 Fax
e-mail: ajfarrar@mpc.edu;

Web sites:

<http://www.mpc.edu/FacultyStaff/AJFarrar/Pages/AJFarrar.aspx>

<http://www.policewriter.com/Members/ajfarrar.htm>