

Wild Thinkers Forum

March 16, 2012

Purpose and Goals

“Come up with dozens of bad ideas because among them will be the one transforming idea that we need.” A little more specifically, the group’s purpose will be to:

- Clarify our college’s “purpose” and commit it to the memory that consciously and unconsciously informs and directs all that we do (and choose not to do)... Make our “purpose” our “religion.”
- Develop “answers” to questions like the ones I first shared with you in January. Questions like:
 - How can we assure our students that the classes they need will be available to them at the times and in the sequence that best supports their progress toward the completion of a degree?
 - How can we ensure that our students have the capacity to succeed in every class they register for?
 - How can we adapt our educational delivery systems (or adopt new ones!) to better serve a renewed focus on student success and completion?
 - How can we ensure that our communities reap tangible cultural and economic benefits from the investment they make in us as THEIR community college?
 - How can we develop and/or take advantage of centralized processes and curricular resources that hold promise for increasing our effectiveness, and efficiency?
 - How can we assure our students that we will be aware of and care about their presence and that we will support their progress for every moment that they are with us?
 - How can we ensure that every member of the LBCC community understands, accepts, and is appreciated for the role they can play in answering these questions?

Process and Timeline

- Take the time to understand the questions, the problems, the challenges... and then take some more time.
- Identify our college's "legacy assets" and begin to identify those that are limiting our capacity to move forward. This will be a provocative process and may raise some eyebrows among our co-workers and friends. Questions like "does all learning require a classroom – or even a course?!" will need to be faced head-on.
- Identify the enduring resources that are now ours and on which our future must be built. Again, this will be provocative work. My guess is that we will come to discover (re-discover) that it is our PEOPLE that are our most valuable enduring resource... but not necessarily the roles we currently play or the positions we currently fill. Hmmmm....
- Create and sustain a group culture where "bad ideas" are welcomed and where we assume that almost every success will begin with failure. In other words, bring the creativity you once had (and still have, if you look hard and deep enough)... but leave your egos at the door.
- Do as much as we can by the end of the Spring 2012 Term.

***Our future must be defined by
the needs and interests of those we serve,
and not by the models or systems or structures
we currently use to serve them.***