

## Planning Summary

Writing of the self study began while the Fresno City College Institutional Strategic Plan 1999-2004 was coming to a close. This was done intentionally so that the self study would guide the development of the next strategic plan in Fall 2005. Initially, when writing the self study, the planning agenda were incorporated throughout the standards. As drafts were prepared, it became clear that planning agenda were repetitive and oriented towards single actions. After considerable discussion among the accreditation steering committee, and guidance from the Commission, the college decided to consolidate the planning agenda at the end of each standard so that they would be meaningful and provide direction. After reading the self study in its entirety, it has become clear that there are key areas, or themes, that the college will need to focus on over the next six years.

The first major area is full implementation and evaluation of institutional planning and decision-making processes. Although the college has well defined procedures for strategic planning and program review, these processes are cumbersome and do not adequately meet the needs of the college. This has made it difficult to effect change or “close the loop,” which has ultimately dampened the enthusiasm and momentum of participants in these endeavors. In this next planning cycle, the college will carefully design plans and processes that fit the culture of the college and that can be easily implemented and assessed for their effectiveness in a practical and systematic fashion.

The next major area is communication. Each area of the college functions well within its own sphere of influence while operating in a spirit of shared governance. The college also effectively communicates decisions among constituent groups. However, as a result of the self study, it is evident that each area has its own methods of long-term planning and decision making that rarely cross paths. In addition to a strategic plan, the college has determined that it will develop a shared governance plan to ensure that it is able to make the best and most informed decisions possible with input from all areas of the college.

Finally, the college must focus on the integration of data and information into decision making. Currently, data are not used on a consistent basis and priorities for research are determined in the moment for a short-term project and with very little connection to long-term planning. The college needs to develop a long-term research agenda that will support collegewide planning and decision making efforts.

The college anticipates a full and reflective dialogue as it begins developing the 2005-2010 institutional strategic plan. This dialogue will begin in earnest in Fall 2005.