Charge to EAC and LAC Leadership

General Education Year of Inquiry (2015-16)

The Educational Advisory Council and Learning Assessment Council leadership teams will work with the Dean of Academic Affairs and the Director of Curriculum to coordinate a college-wide Year of Inquiry to explore the current General Education curriculum at PCC.

Guiding questions for inquiry and discussion will include:

- What are the needs for students in the 21st century for general education?
- How does PCC’s current general education model measure up against other models? As more institutions change their general education model, what does it mean for our students?
- General Education reform often includes review, with possible update, of the college’s institutional outcomes. Are PCC's Core Outcomes what we want them to be?
- How does the current design of PCC’s General Education model support the development and mastery of the Core Outcomes for degree-seeking students?
- Now that the state has approved majors for community colleges, how will this affect general education at PCC?

The Year of Inquiry will involve broad-based discussions among faculty, academic units, student service units, and students. A work group developed by the leadership team identified above will coordinate discussions, collect and process feedback with the goal of encouraging open dialog, and provide regular opportunities for review and feedback by the college community. The group will present its findings and recommendations to the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at the end of the academic year.

Majors

The Degrees and Certificates Committee will develop a Work Group to coordinate discussion of the utility and possible design parameters of majors in the transfer degrees at PCC. The Work Group should include a few standing committee members, with some additional members from faculty, advisors, administration and students. This group will review guidelines provided by the state agencies (CCWD, HECC); transfer requirements, policies, and trends at four-year institutions across the state; models for community college majors utilized in other states; and other relevant data. In addition, the Work Group will convene broad-based discussions with faculty, staff, and students across the college, including open discussions and conversations at relevant committees and standing meetings such as (but not limited to) the EAC, CC, ASAC, CIC, Strategic Planning Council, Advising Council, etc.

Guiding questions for inquiry and discussion will include:

- What is the purpose of a major at a community college?
- What should majors do for PCC students intending to transfer to 4-year degree programs?
- How should PCC design majors for transfer degrees?

The Work Group will review and assess the information and feedback gathered through this process and make recommendations to the full Degrees and Certificates Committee no later than the end of Spring Term 2016 regarding: a) the guidelines and parameters for majors within the transfer degrees at PCC and b) next steps for implementation.