

# **Access to Excellence**

## **Cal Maritime's day of community conversation**

Coordinated by Paul Jackson, Director of Professional and Institutional Efficacy  
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### **Assumptions:**

Cal Maritime wanted to get as many people as possible involved in the conversations. We are in the midst of our own strategic planning process and are using the strategic planning model for our WASC accreditation self-study. We strongly believed that we could learn a great deal for our own planning as well as supply CSU with input with this event. This would provide a number of positives for us. First it would help us understand our community's concerns and issues. Second, the information gathered would be to apply this to both the CSU strategic planning process and to our own strategic plan. The final positive was that it would help us align our planning with the CSU as a whole.

### **Process:**

We broke the day into 4 sessions.

For the first session there were four groups that met; Student Affairs staff, Administrative and Finance staff, Academic Affairs staff, and Facilitates staff. Development was originally scheduled to be a separate group but due to small numbers, this group was combined with the Administrative staff.

The second session had two groups, students and faculty. The faculty group had facilitators who were not a faculty member, two student services professions. Two faculty members were the facilitators for the student group.

In the afternoon, the third session included community members. We originally planned to have 3 groups, Alumni, Industry Advisory Board and Community representatives. Because the total of the 3 groups was 22 people, we combined the groups into one large session. This proved to be a very good idea as this combined group was very engaged and contributed a great deal.

The final session was an informal reception. This reception was open to all members of the community and about 60 attended. This was an opportunity to talk about the day's events, why we held these conversations and where the process, both for the CSU and Cal Maritime's strategic planning, goes from here. Out of this session came the idea to establish a place on the CMA web site where everyone could follow the process of the strategic planning process.

The facilitators for all the sessions were members of the WASC steering committee. They met at the end of the day to discuss what had been said. The facilitators then wrote the reports each session that are attached to this summary.

**Result:**

More than 125 members of the Cal Maritime community participated in at least one of these activities. For a campus of 825 students and less than 100 faculty and staff, this was an excellent representation.

The results of each session are attached.

There were some short-comings to the approach that we took. The groups tended to look more at issues of Cal Maritime and less at issues of the CSU. This is understandable as Cal Maritime is new to the CSU and, due to our size, we have less representation at CSU than would a larger university. We are also focused on our own strategic planning process. Also the results of our sessions tended to be more short term than what should CSU and Cal Maritime look like is ten to fifteen years.

Over-all, it was a very successful day with very good feedback from a wide cross-section of the community.

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*ACCESS TO EXCELLENCE*  
*Summary of California Maritime's*  
*Day of community conversations*

This is a summary of the seven sessions held on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The seven sessions included one with the faculty, one with students, one with academic administration staff, one with administrative, finance and development staff, one with student affairs staff, one with facilities staff and one with community partners.

Domains:

**1. Assuring Access**

What are the strengths of your campus and the CSU system now?

1. Low cost education. Especially when compared to the potential earning power of graduates
2. Cal Maritime serves all Western states. WUE provides low cost for out of state students
3. Fully accredited engineering programs, accredited by WASC, and the International Maritime Organization
4. Summer bridge program
5. CSU study abroad program
6. CSU Veterans' initiative
7. Small campus can provide better assistance to students with disabilities

What would you like either or both to be doing better in the future?

1. Establish links with bay area high schools that emphasize technology
2. Improve methods for transferring in credits. Unique program but more could be done to assess transfer credits
3. Use technology to offer distance education
4. Establish summer programs for students needing remediation prior to entering
5. Improve Continuing Education programs
6. Improve outreach to underrepresented groups (women, ethics minorities)
7. Improve web site access for people with disabilities

What changes need to occur at each level (campus and system) in order to do what each should be doing?

1. Improve facilities for Admissions and Outreach office.
2. Improve faculty advisor training in dealing with transfer students
3. When looking at new programs, insure that the programs match the future needs of society
4. Improve the transfer credit situation

How could technology help to achieve goals and/or improve business processes in this area?

1. Improve the web site
2. Use technology so CSU campus can exchange classes via distance learning.
3. Improve distance education

## **2. Connecting to P-12 Schools and to Community Colleges**

What are the strengths of your campus and the CSU system now?

1. Have articulation agreement for one program
2. EAP program works with local high schools
3. Summer Bridge program brings juniors on campus from Oakland

What would you like either or both to be doing better in the future?

1. Improve outreach programs to increase awareness among high school students
2. Improve scholarship funding
3. Increased contact with community colleges to match up courses
4. Establish joint programs with P-12 to increase interest in math, science and engineering.

What changes need to occur at each level (campus and system) in order to do what each should be doing?

1. Develop a CSU wide high school mentoring program. Sort of a combined EAP and service learning.
2. Break down the perception that CSU is substandard to UC.
3. CMA needs to raise visibility in the local community to become the “education center of Solano County”
4. Take CMA leadership program into high schools.

How could technology help to achieve goals and/or improve business processes in this area?

1. Improved web presence
2. Provide academic preparation materials to P-12 via web sites

## **3. Fulfilling Commitments to Multiple Stakeholders**

What are the strengths of your campus and the CSU system now?

1. Close ties with industry
2. Cal Maritime has been the model for STCW compliance
3. Cal Maritime facility and administrators active in professional societies
4. Cal Maritime facility and administrators active in WASC and ABET
5. Active Industrial Advisory Board

What would you like either or both to be doing better in the future?

1. Alumni Association needs improvement
2. Conduct periodic surveys of employers and alumni
3. Establish research agreements with industry and state agencies

What changes need to occur at each level (campus and system) in order to do what each should be doing?

1. Use Industrial Advisory Board and Alumni more in mentoring students
2. Raise visibility in the community

How could technology help to achieve goals and/or improve business processes in this area?

1. Improve web site

#### **4. Ensuring Success in Student Learning**

What are the strengths of your campus and the CSU system now?

1. Uniforms and leadership program
2. Small campus with more individual attention
3. Student access to computer systems
4. Improved facilities over the past 10 years
5. Students have one academic advisor from their major for the entire time
6. Cruises, co-ops, internships and labs provide applications for learning

What would you like either or both to be doing better in the future?

1. Summer courses to relieve the pressure of heavy class loads
2. Improve training of advisors
3. Improve the residence experience
4. Improve outreach to students who are having academic difficulties
5. Better identify “students at risk” and provide support for them

What changes need to occur at each level (campus and system) in order to do what each should be doing?

1. Establish a system for identifying and support potential students at risks from application through graduation. This would include summer remediation, better advising, identifying disabilities, tutoring.
2. Adjust CSU funding model to promote quality instead of quantity. Current FTE funding rewards for students in class not graduation rates or other success measures.
3. Better tracking and surveying of students after graduation

How could technology help to achieve goals and/or improve business processes in this area?

1. Improved use of technology for labs and other “bottle neck” classes
2. Better use of PeopleSoft
3. Set up alumni email system
4. Use simulation technology to improve student learning

## **5. Faculty/Staff Excellence to promote Student Success**

What are the strengths of your campus and the CSU system now?

1. Faculty have industry background
2. Students have access to faculty not just to departments
3. Faculty hiring focuses on teaching ability

What would you like either or both to be doing better in the future?

1. Funding of salaries could be improved.
2. Improve hiring procedure to reduce time and costs of hiring faculty and staff. No private company would hire the way CSU does.
3. Improve faculty development to include “how do we teach a new generation of students”.
4. Provide an environment of stability and consistency in application of business processes to improve administrative efficiencies

What changes need to occur at each level (campus and system) in order to do what each should be doing?

1. Reduce the CSU system generated administrative load on small campuses.
2. Improve faculty and staff development both locally and CSU wide.
3. NO UNFUNDED MANDATES!

How could technology help to achieve goals and/or improve business processes in this area?

1. Automated training of faculty and staff
2. More reports on line.
3. Improve web access and use of web based instruction

## **6. Now and in the Future: Campus/System Identity**

What are the strengths of your campus and the CSU system now?

1. Cal Maritime has a unique identity. This includes a cruise experience for all students, all students in Corp of Cadets, all students wear uniforms.
2. Through the cruise student develop global awareness.
3. As part of the CSU, there are resources available that are not available to small colleges.
4. Students graduate “job ready” having had experiences that directly relate to potential job situations.
5. High job placement rate.

What would you like either or both to be doing better in the future?

1. Improve the use of technology
2. Explore educational opportunities that deal with emerging technology or needs such as energy, environmental issues, ocean resources,
3. Cal Maritime needs to better identify itself as part of the CSU. No where on campus is the CSU logo used,

4. Find the balance between maintaining the unique identity of Cal Maritime and diversifying the students and the educational experience.

What changes need to occur at each level (campus and system) in order to do what each should be doing?

1. CSU needs to recognize unique campuses and adapt funding models for that.

How could technology help to achieve goals and/or improve business processes in this area?

2. Improve identity via web site.