

State of the College
By Monte E. Perez, President
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Introduction

In 1978 the first President of Los Angeles Mission College, Dr. Ravetch stated and I paraphrase, “We have many challenges at Mission. With the passage of Proposition 13, funding for community colleges will be reduced. We will try to serve the needs of our students under this significant reduction in funding.” Proposition 13 was approved by California voters to put a ceiling on property tax for homeowners. The reduction of funding from property tax for K-12 and community colleges severely limited the types of instruction and services community colleges would offer then and into the future.

Now in 2018 we are facing another significant budget challenge with the legislature passing a new funding formula. We have until the fiscal year 21-22 to adjust to this new funding formula and change the way we provide instruction and student services with the passage of Assembly Bill 705 and Guided Pathways.

The New Funding Formula

Beginning July 1, 2018 the new funding formula for California community colleges takes effect. The legislature provided base funding to the colleges that equals their 17-18 allocation while the new funding formula begins to take shape. Thus, colleges have three years to reshape enrollment and student support services to improve student success. However, it is wise for colleges to begin now to redesign themselves.

The old funding formula was apportionment on 100% of enrollment. Full time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was the basis for funding community colleges. Now the new funding formula will change to 60% enrollment, 20% supplemental, and 20% student success. The 20% supplemental or equity funding targets the number of students who are low income attending the college. AB 540 students, Promise Grant students (formerly BOG students) and Pell recipients will provide supplemental funding to the colleges. Finally, 20% of funding will be tied to the number of transfer students, degree and certificate attainments, and students entering living wage jobs.

LACCD is currently analyzing the nine colleges’ position along the new funding formula. Preliminary analysis reveals that the nine colleges will fare well under this new formula; however, we need to redesign ourselves to further increase enrollment and enhance the supplemental and success categories.

For enrollment, we need to increase student participation in dual enrollment and noncredit programs. For the supplemental category, we need to increase the number of students

applying for financial aid and obtaining Pell grants. Finally, for the success category we need to increase transfer, degree, and credit and noncredit certificate attainment.

Assembly Bill 705 and Guided Pathways

Along with the new funding formula, we have two initiatives that will significantly change instruction and student services. AB 705 requires that in fall 2019 entering freshmen must complete freshmen English and mathematics in the first year. It requires that students be placed in in English 101 and math 125 directly with no remediation. Beginning in January 2019 there will no longer be English and mathematics assessments that place students into remedial or development courses.

The state's Chancellor Office is providing guidance on student placement into freshmen English and mathematics. High school GPA will be used to indicate if a student can go into these courses with or without additional support such as tutoring, supplemental instruction, or other support services.

The Academic Senates of LACCD are working on the implementation of this new requirement. Mission's Senate and the Office of Academic Affairs are working closely to address AB 705.

Guided Pathways is another legislative initiative that seeks to ensure that all students have a clear pathway to meet their educational goals whether it is transfer, degree or certificate attainment. The colleges have submitted plans over the next three years to institute guided pathways for all students that are seamless and easy to follow.

Mission is prepared for the Challenges

Since 1975 the year Mission was founded we have witnessed growth and had many victories. We were founded to serve the communities in Northeast San Fernando Valley and have answered this call with distinction. Now in 2018 we can see the "fruits of our labor" and are poised to address the challenges ahead of us. We are in a good position because we have achieved the following:

1. Strategic Planning

The shared governance structure at Mission is solid. Every year the College Council reviews and updates our strategic plan. The strategic plan includes our institutional standards for student success, enrollment, budget, facilities, student's services, technology, and the professional development needs of faculty and staff. The College Council will be meeting tomorrow to draft the 2018-2023 strategic plan. This plan will address the new funding formula, AB 705, and guided pathways.

2. Enrollment

Enrollment has increased over the last five years. Every year we have grown by 2% or above the previous year. In 17-18, the district was down by 5%. Mission was down by 1%. We have established a plan to address the 1% drop and surpass it in 18-19. Much of this plan is geared to the opportunities to expand dual enrollment and noncredit programs. We have 63 dual enrollment classes at our high schools this year. We plan another 48 in the spring. This will bring our overall enrollment up from last year. In addition, noncredit classes will increase significantly.

Of course, we will expand outreach and community engagement activities to increase overall enrollment and encourage students to enroll in our Career Education programs that have increased a great deal over the last three years.

3. Budget

Fiscal year 17-18 ended in a deficit. This is the first time in my 7 years that we had a deficit at year-end. The deficit was caused by the Creek Fire, utilities increasing by \$300,000 and an over expenditure of categorical funds in student services.

We have a plan to erase the deficit in 18-19 by reducing non-personnel expenses and acquiring our full funding at the level of 17-18 from the district. We are confident the college will end with a positive balance in 18-19.

4. Facilities

We have by far the most beautiful campus in the district. The opening of the Arts, Media and Performance (AMP) building testifies to that fact. We have been approved to build our next highest priority, the Student Services Administration Building. We are currently updating the ADA codes and will release a procurement to a qualified builder. We plan to open the Student Services Administration Building Fall 2021.

5. Faculty and staff

Our faculty and staff remain diligent and committed. We continue to meet the Full Time Obligation Number (FON) for full time faculty. We have hired five new full time faculty for 18-19. This will bring us close to twenty full time faculty over the last three years. We have also hired more custodians and if you look at the campus, you will notice just how clean and pristine campus is.

Faculty and student services staff are up to the challenges of the funding formula, AB 705 and Guided Pathways. More than ever, we need strong collaboration between Academic Affairs, Student Services, and Administrative Services. These divisions will

work as a team to increase enrollment, support low-income students, and improve transfer, degree and certificate attainment.

Administrative services is critical to establishing a physical learning environment that supports student, faculty, and staff engagement that promotes student success. Administrative Services continues to serve faculty, staff and students and business transactions, safety and security remain a high priority.

Where do we go from here?

As before, we are up to the task. Like 1978, we had significant challenges but we triumphed. We will do what it takes. Below are some of the strategies we need to embrace.

- Re-organizing and re-purposing ourselves—closer coordination of academic affairs, student services, and administrative service
- Implementing a Strategic plan that incorporates the actions necessary to increase enrollment, support low income students, and increase student success
- Complete our Educational master plan for 2018-2021 that establishes the framework for enrollment growth and student success
- Build new facilities including the Student Services and Administration Building and Athletic fields
- Increase community engagement that promotes collaboration with K-12, nonprofit organizations, adult schools, businesses, and LA County and LA city departments.
- Sponsor robust professional development programs for faculty and staff. Make sure these professional development programs promote efficiency and effectiveness in our efforts to educate and serve students.

The future is bright. Mission is on the move. We have demonstrated our commitment and excellence over the last several years to everyone in the district and the community. Again, we are poised to greatness and all of you should be proud as I am of Mission's history and future.