



Digest

CONSULTATION

Title: Future Directions for the Calif. Community Colleges

Date: August 20, 2009

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Issue: What should be the system's priorities for the future of our colleges?

Background:

An array of factors are changing the landscape for the system's future: the convergence of reduced funding at the same time that enrollment demands increase: more laid off workers, more university-eligible students re-directed to the colleges; an unprecedented number of under-prepared students who require additional services (which are being underfunded); and a potential move towards the universities pushing all or most lower division instruction to community colleges. All the while, the workplace and the state need more highly educated employees and more college graduates. The pressures on the system and the individuals colleges are enormous.

The legislature and many outside Foundations are setting their own goals and agendas for the system. Rather than waiting for others to set our agenda and rather than making decisions (e.g. budget priorities or reductions) that *de facto* alter our missions and our future, should the Consultation Council discuss strategies to ensure that those of us *within* the system develop our own consensus about the system's future?