Proposal for Institutional Effectiveness Council (IEC)

**Purpose:** To establish a prominent participatory governance body that will focus on increasingly significant policies, processes, and issues of strategic plan alignment, institutional effectiveness, institutional research, and continuous improvement, and that will complement and inform the deliberations of the College Planning Council (CPC) and other councils.

**Rationale:** The Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness (IPE) assumes the lead role in coordinating systems and processes dedicated to institutional effectiveness and continuous improvement. In the 2014-15 year alone, task forces were formed to swiftly meet external requirements for developing foundational sets of standards for student achievement (ACCJC) and goals for institutional effectiveness (Chancellor’s Office). A Continuous Improvement Committee (CIC) was established as a subcommittee of the CPC to focus on continuous improvement processes and alignment among strategic planning, long term planning and annual planning. There has additionally been a longstanding need to build a strong institutional research function over time, and thereby to focus on policies, procedures, systems, and data bases relevant for conducting research, validating and analyzing data, and reporting research and data outcomes. While continuing to increase the number of smaller college-wide committees has worked for tactical purposes, it does not allow for appropriate consideration of the weighty recommendations that the college will be expected to make in the years ahead, nor does it represent a sustainable strategy for an institution that is already experiencing less-than-ideal constituent participation.

**Impact:** This proposal for an institutional effectiveness council would:
- Replace the CIC by encompassing its current responsibilities;
- Eliminate the need to continue two recently initiated task forces by providing a primary ongoing participatory governance body for establishing standards and goals for institutional effectiveness;
- Introduce a mechanism for focusing on issues of institutional research and data; and
- Include dean and director positions who may complement the perspectives of vice presidents who are permanent members of the CPC.