Appendix B: Initiatives to Enhance the Operation and Effectiveness of the Institution

Part 2: Initiatives begun in 2012 and scheduled to be completed by June 2013

The College began implementing in the spring of 2012 the Resource 25 Class and Event Management System. Resource 25 interfaces with Banner events and is used by the College to record and track both academic events (e.g., classes) and non-academic events (e.g., meetings, conferences). This system supports the activities of the Office of Instructional Management and the event planning efforts of several campus offices. After the College has completed testing the Web viewer component, the system will be available to all faculty and staff.

DegreeWorks
The College is implementing DegreeWorks, an application that integrates with the Banner student system and includes a set of web-based academic advising, degree audit, and transfer articulation tools to help both students and their counselors with navigating College curriculum requirements. DegreeWorks offers real-time advice and counsel to students, interactive “what if” scenario planning, more transparent course and credit transfer, more personalized advising, more timely degree certification, and better retention and improved transfer recruitment.

Employee Self-Service Portal
The College is implementing the Banner Employee Self-Service portal to provide College faculty and staff secure access to their payroll and benefits information such as contract information, available leave, paycheck stubs, employee benefits, payroll deductions, and tax statements. With this portal, the College will continue reducing its reliance on paper documents for both distribution and submission of information.

Banner Enterprise Data Warehouse
The College will implement the Banner Enterprise Data Warehouse EDW in 2012-2013 to provide access to historical data including budget, financial transaction, expenditure, human resource, payroll, and student data. With the Banner EDW, the College will collect longitudinal data that will assist in the identification of trends and generally improve strategic planning efforts.
MARINet
In 2012-13 the College will join MARINet, a consortium of eighteen member libraries in Marin County. This will significantly enhance student access to library resources and services while reducing the overall cost of maintaining our research databases and catalog. Once implemented, a single library card will provide students with access to the materials and services of eighteen member libraries located throughout Marin County. Students will be able to access a suite of research databases, borrow items from any MARINet library, return those items to any MARINet library, and request those items be delivered from the member libraries to the College of Marin.

Opt-Out Emergency Response System (AlertU)
Research feasibility of an “opt-out” emergency response system to replace the existing “opt-in” alert system.

Student Computer Labs - Student Domain
The College is establishing a student domain for computers in computer classrooms and labs. This will provide a common management platform for deploying new services to labs, facilitate software license management across multiple labs, and allow for remote inventory tracking.

Student Computer Lab Virtual Desktop Technology
As a pilot project, the College will replace 100 lab computers with thin-client systems accessing virtual desktops hosted on a central server. For 2012-2013, the Instructional Equipment Committee has recommended the following labs for the pilot: Science Labs, BC 101, English Writing Center, and the Library. If the pilot is successful, the College will expand deployment of the virtual desktop technology to most PC labs.

Define Standards and Replacement Plan for Lab Computers
The College will establish structured process for replacement of student lab computers to ensure that lab computers can support course software. This structured process will include system standards for both Windows and Macintosh computers, prioritizing replacement of systems, maintaining an up-to-date inventory with details of each system, replacement of standard desktop systems with thin-client systems accessing virtual desktops as appropriate, and an annual allocation and replacement process. This structured replacement planning process will be incorporated into the Program Review process. This will improve the overall management of the student computer labs, make identifying funding needs more predictable, and improve the learning environment for students.
Again, incorporating thin-client systems as appropriate will reduce energy consumption in the computer labs, lower the ongoing costs of maintaining the labs, and increase PG&E rebates.