Dear Campus Community,

Summer is in full swing, and at Cal Maritime that means cadets have taken their education off campus --- for summer cruise, international experience, and various internships with our industry partners. Faculty continue to train and develop our cadets on these important formative experiences and staff are either with cadets on the training cruise or working feverishly to prepare the campus for the 2019-2020 academic year. As I have shared with many of you in years past, the summer period is a sprint and returns to a marathon pace when the school year begins. It takes energy, passion and patience from our whole team! Thank you.

This past spring, the academy officially launched the planning effort for Phase II of our 15-year strategic master. We will create the 2nd 5-year strategic plan together over the next year.

**Comprehensive Planning Framework**
Last week, we held the second of three futures conferences (FC) – this time for staff. Cadets had their FC in April, and faculty will round out these FC events with a dedicated effort in August during their annual planning retreat with Provost Opp. It all fits together into a coordinated set of planning events to position us for the future.

I want to thank everyone who has participated in our futures conferences. This time of year is extraordinarily busy but that didn’t deter the nearly 100 dedicated people who attended. We are fortunate to have so many colleagues who care deeply about our academy’s future. For many of our colleagues, the Cal Maritime strategic planning process is a new experience, particularly given its comprehensive and detailed nature; for others, this may be old hat. While the experience and understanding in the room varied, what stood out was your eagerness to participate and actively engage --- lending your voice, offering your best ideas, and sharing in the commitment to preserve our legacy and advance our mission. These FCs are the beginning, not the end, of great conversations and our best thinking over the next year on how we will deliver on our educational mission.
Are these efforts worth it? I think so – very much so. The progress that you’ve achieved in the 3 years of our current plan were the direct result of ideas advanced in the last round of FCs. Here’s some evidence that those ideas made a difference: tech refresh in simulators, new tenure-track faculty positions, new training boats, doubling of Presidential Mission grants, Moodle to Brightspace migration, faculty administrative support, creation of our maker space, the Bistro and Keelhau ler Café, a veterans’ center, doubling of wifi access points, Mayo Hall courtyard, establishment of EOP, and a new women’s soccer team. These are but a few of your ideas turned into accomplishments, many born in the FCs. That’s progress!

So what’s next? Here’s what you can expect:

- This month --- Launch of a new strategic planning webpage

  Over the next few weeks, Brig Timpson will work closely with our webmaster to design and launch an interactive webpage dedicated to Cal Maritime’s strategic planning process, focusing on the work underway for phase 2. This webpage will contain detailed information related to the strategic planning process and timeline; planning committee membership, meeting minutes, and progress reports; and an online form that will allow anyone to submit ideas to the committees and campus leadership.

- July --- Refine objectives and outcomes

  The Cabinet will meet on July 3 for its annual day-long summer planning offsite, and a large portion of the agenda will be dedicated to refining and solidifying the objectives and outcomes for each of the five strategic goals.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021-2026 Goals (Proposed)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Enhance <strong>ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE</strong> and expand research, scholarship, and educational opportunities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrich the <strong>CADET EXPERIENCE</strong> through leadership development, engagement, and support services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Achieve <strong>ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE</strong> through sustainable infrastructure, proven business practices, and professional development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broaden our <strong>GLOBAL REACH &amp; IMPACT</strong> as a maritime university by cultivating partnerships, outreach and engagement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote <strong>INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE</strong> in our campus community by fostering unity, wellness, and collegiality.</td>
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- August --- Establish planning committees

  As our entire campus team converges on campus in August for the start of the Fall semester, the Cabinet will work with the campus community to form strategic planning committees. Membership will include faculty, staff, cadets, and external stakeholders.
➢ August --- Futures Conference for Faculty

The third installment of futures conferences will held in late August for faculty, during their annual retreat with Provost Opp.

➢ Fall 2019 --- Develop detailed plans

Planning committees will convene throughout the fall semester to develop strategies for each of the campus goals. Town halls and other open forums will be scheduled periodically throughout the semester to provide everyone with an opportunity to ask questions, submit more ideas, and understand first-hand the work of each of the committees.

➢ December --- First draft due

Planning committees should complete their work and prepare first-draft plans for campus-wide review and feedback, which will follow in the early weeks of Spring 2020.

As you can see, there is a great deal of opportunity ahead for us; if what we experienced last week during the staff FC events is any indication, I am strongly confident that we will be successful in creating a new strategic plan full of our very best ideas.

Gratefully, TC

Thomas A. Cropper
President
California State University Maritime Academy

P.S. Great seeing everyone at the Ice Cream Social last Wednesday!

P.P.S Please reach out to Cabinet leadership for answers to your questions about the process and/or direction of the planning effort.