• At the end of the year, program faculty will prepare a Revitalization Report to be presented to the Academic Senate. This report will:

1. Identify the program's weaknesses and challenges.

   Even though the Auto Tech facility was "modernized," not all aspects of the facility or program needs were addressed. Specifically, the floors were supposed to be coated with an oil resistant material designed to prevent oil from soaking in and permanently staining the floor. This was not done. The cement floors were also poured with improper mixture of water causing the floor to crack when it dried. The contractors were not held accountable. The combination of the cracked floors and inadequate finish present a problem. We are trying to prepare our students to be professional Auto Technicians and therefore we need a professional facility. To solve the problem, the floors need to be painted with a chemical resistant urethane similar to the dealerships in our area, making us a professional training facility.

   A second flaw in the facility since "modernization" is that the work surfaces in the Auto Lab were supposed to be painted with a chemical resistant paint (powder coated). The project managers did not write the specifications correctly for the counter surfaces. Consequently, the work surfaces were painted with a material which absorbs oil and other cleaning solvents. This was brought to the attention of the project managers during modernization/construction. The project managers did not issue a change order to cover their mistake. The project managers promised to replace the work surfaces with stainless steel. At this time, the replacement has still not taken place. The work surfaces have absorbed oils and chemicals and now pose a health issue. This needs to be addressed immediately.

   Finally, to simulate a dealerships operation, we need to outfit each one of our repair bays with the necessary computers and diagnostic equipment (scan tools, multi meters, exhaust analyzer, fuel pressure vacuum gauge, etc.). At the present time, we have most of the necessary scan tools and meters but all of the software is out of date. We have asked the technology committee for the scan tools software to be updated on a rotating basis. At the present time, we have not heard what College of Marin's plan is for updating software. This poses a problem for our students. Also, the Auto facility has eight work bays. Each of these bays needs to have its own PC loaded with the necessary software and capability of looking up repair procedures and service bulletins. Technicians today are expected to research repair procedures prior to working on vehicles. At this time, we have four old computers which are outdated. We have asked the Instructional Equipment Committee to fund four new computers this year and hope to fund four more next year. There are no guarantees we will get any of them at this time.

   College of Marin's Auto Program needs to be a "benchmark of excellence" in the community and push the edge of technology.

2. Review all data consulted.

   After reviewing all Automotive courses and their success rates between the period of 2010 to 2012, it appeared that the major area of concern was the second year component. Specifically, the courses with poor success rates were Auto 228, 229, 230

and 232. All of these courses have now been updated and aligned to meet ASE and NATEF Standards.

3. Include a list of measurable actions for revitalization.

   a. During the summer of 2012, the president of COM asked that we cut all programs by 7% and an additional 3% in the Fall of 2013. As far as I know, Career Ed was the only department to actually cut a full 10% from their offerings. This reduction in units affects the tracking and skews data.
   b. The Auto program revised curriculum and created new degrees and certificates.
   c. The Automotive program eliminated barriers in curriculum and teaching methodology. Second year students were struggling and success rates were poor. Typically less than ten students passed in their second year classes due to out of date curriculum and out of date teaching methodologies. With the revised curriculum, which was aligned to meet ASE and NATEF standards, improved lecture presentations and relevant lab work tasks, success rates dramatically increased.
   d.   The Automotive Department met with the Advisory Committee to evaluate all aspects of the program and eliminate barriers. It was decided to eliminate the mandatory 2,000 hours of work experience and $6000 tool requirement. Eliminating these barriers increased the number of students completing and graduating from the program.

3.   Make specific recommendations for improvement which may include:

   a. Curriculum changes
       Over the last year, we met with our Advisory Committee and updated our curriculum in all of our courses. Curriculum changes were submitted to Curriculum Committee and all changes were accepted. All courses in Automotive Technology were updated in 2013 including a critical thinking component and Student Learning Outcomes.

   b. Scheduling changes
       The Advisory Committee met and discussed the best time to offer courses. The schedule was modified to accommodate student needs and when students are most likely available to take courses. Afternoon and evening courses typically have better enrollment than morning classes.

   c. Degree or Certificates updates
       The Automotive Department met with the Advisory Committee to update all Degrees and Certificates. Skill certificates were eliminated. Degree and Career Certificates were modified to aligned with ASE requirements. We now have four new Certificates including: A.S. Master Repair Technician/Certificate of Achievement, Certificate of Achievement Auto Chassis and Drivetrain Specialist (A3, A4, A5), Certificate of Achievement Auto Electronics Specialist (A6, A7, A8), and Certificate of Achievement Auto Engine Specialist (A1 & A9). All of the Certificates and Degrees have been approved by the Curriculum Committee, School Board and Chancellors' Office. The new degrees and certificates will be posted in next year's catalog. A new pathways worksheet was developed and distributed to all counselors and students in the Automotive program making student tracking easier. Please find the attached worksheet.

d. Professional development for faculty

The Automotive Program is in the process of obtaining ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) and NATEF (National Automotive Teachers Education Foundation) certification. ASE certification requires that all Automotive instructors receive 20 hours of approved update training annually. This training can be acquired at either the NATEF National Conference or the biannual CAT (California Automotive Teachers) Conference. Instructors will also need to be ASE Certified in the area in which they teach, but it is preferred they have their ASE Master Tech Automotive Certificate.

e. Changes in delivery method
Members of the Automotive Department have worked together to improve their methods of PowerPoint presentations. All PowerPoint presentations will include a picture and short written captions. This addresses English Language Learners and the different modalities of learning styles. The Automotive Instructors have worked together to critique each other's PowerPoint presentations to insure that they are motivating, meaningful and engaging. The Automotive Department has made all PowerPoint presentation available to students.

f. Additional or new classroom resources or technology

At the present time, we need eight new computers. Students need computers to search repair data information. Students leaving our program are expected to be able to research and diagnose vehicle repair.

4. Identify budget requirements in order to achieve improvement goals.

The Automotive Department will be seeking ASE Certification. There are four major components to become certified, all of which require money:

a. The curriculum must be aligned with ASE standards.
   This has already been addressed. Our curriculum has been aligned to meet ASE standards.

b. Instructors need to be ASE Certified.
   All COM Automotive instructors at this time are ASE Certified.

c. The Automotive Department must have all the tools required by ASE.
   At the present time, we do NOT have all the required tools. Additional funding will be needed.

d. Apply for ASE certification
   College of Marin will be responsible for application fee and all expenses incurred with ASE certification.

May 12, 2013