Summary

The MCC/NCA2000 self-study process began in 1997 and continues through the present. It was the intent from the beginning that the process would not end with the team visit but would instead be one of the bases for ongoing self-analysis and improvement. Mott Community College does not see the process or this report or even the team’s analysis and recommendation as final. Continuous improvement is and will continue to be the College’s primary goal. MCC is currently undergoing a leadership change as it carries out a national search for a new President, and the College looks forward to working with the new person who will assume that position. Certainly there will be change, but as Chapter Two of this report points out, the College has a history of change. An institution that does not change becomes stagnant. Nor does change indicate lack of stability or uncertainty. It is our hope that the self-study process, the report, and the recommendations of the visiting team will all serve to aid the new President.

Throughout the chapters focusing on the Five Evaluative Criteria, the self-study report included SWOT analyses, and there appears to be no need to repeat or review those here. Inherent in those analyses were indications of what the College should do to enhance strengths, remedy weaknesses, take advantage of opportunities, and deal with threats. Nonetheless, it seems useful to identify some recommendations, based on the results of the self-study process, that the College needs to consider seriously and promptly. The list that follows is not exhaustive by any means, but it does reflect potential courses of action the College could and probably should follow.

Recommendations for Action

Criterion One, Mission and Purposes

• Extrapolate two or three ideas from the current mission statement to form a broad overarching statement that focuses on teaching and learning.

• Use some of the ideas from the student and employee surveys expressed as additional bulleted points.

• Communicate the mission statement more effectively to the campus staff, student body, and the community.
Criterion Two, Effectively Organized Human, Physical, and Financial Resources

- Work toward maintaining a more stable administrative structure with longer retention of administrative personnel.

- Continue to strengthen the College’s information gathering and analysis to ensure ongoing decision making that is data driven.

- Make a concerted, well-coordinated effort to increase student enrollment at SLBC to reach at least previous levels and achieve the potential growth possible from the branch’s close proximity to population and business growth in the southern Genesee and northern Livingston County region.

- Develop a practical, workable plan focused on replacing the large segment of the full-time faculty likely to retire within the next several years.

- Continue to use advances in technology to improve student services, particularly for the increasing numbers of distance learning students and for students at the branch campuses. Continue to install adequate hardware and software to meet burgeoning computer needs.

- Continue to focus on customer service improvements, using information from student surveys to provide insight into students, changing needs and expectations.

- Improve student retention rates. Continue PERSIST and strengthen other efforts that provide instructional support and otherwise work to ensure student success at MCC.

- Continue to provide a variety of student life opportunities and activities. Improve advertising of upcoming events with posters, flyers, newspaper articles, and InfoChannel announcements. Do a more successful job of letting students know that funds are available for travel, speakers, and new equipment.

- Use the business plan currently under development in the food services area to provide adequate, cost effective food services for day and evening students on at least a break-even basis so that the general fund does not have to continue to subsidize these services.
• More effectively communicate to students the wide array of services available to them at MCC.

• Create incentives for early registration to alleviate the last minute crunch every fall and winter semester.

• Assess physical resource adequacy regularly by surveying students and employees and make appropriate plans and adjustments as a result of the findings.

• Develop a reliable means of planning for required maintenance, depreciation, repair, and future improvement to existing facilities, e.g. the Mott Library Building.

• Create a maintenance fund to cover routine repairs, painting, and replacement of office/laboratory equipment.

• Carry out a millage campaign to enhance the College’s ability to operate the RTC fully.

**Criterion Three**

• Continue to study possibilities for more flexible scheduling, including flexible beginning and ending dates, lengths of study, and modularization of courses.

• Continue work on a student tracking system to help assess the success of developmental as well as other courses in preparing students for subsequent coursework.

• Continue to review and evaluate better assessment tools in the area of general education objectives.

• Re-evaluate for revision the College’s current general education requirements.

**Criterion Four**

• Increase partnerships with business, industry, labor, and community organizations.
• Balance efforts to include solid strategic planning with the flexibility and agility to anticipate needs and opportunities.

**Criterion Five**

• The College and the faculty union need to review and revise the student complaint procedure to eliminate any confusion or problems that exist as the result of the reorganization of the academic administrative structure.

• Continue to ensure that all College publications are consistent in their messages about Mott Community College and its mission and purposes.

**Request for Continued Accreditation**

Charles Stewart Mott Community College has been accredited continuously by the North Central Association since 1926. MCC remains a strong, vital institution. Its faculty, staff, administration, and Board are experienced and dedicated to the College and its mission. As this self-study report reflects, the institution recognizes that it faces challenges and obstacles, but the people affiliated with the College, including the more than 140 individuals who participated in the MCC/NCA2000 self-study process, have no doubts about the College’s ability to meet the challenges and overcome the obstacles.

We believe we have established that Mott Community College meets the General Institutional Requirements and fulfills the Five Evaluative Criteria for membership and can and will continue to do so. Thus the College requests that the Commission grant MCC continued accreditation for the next ten years and approve the College’s offering of degree programs via other distance learning modalities in addition to the already approved programs offered by telecourse.