

STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE MEETING

January 13, 2015

Starlight Room

Participants: 26 faculty/staff, 18 Task Force Members

Co-Chair Marvin Dodge called the meeting to order at 11:35 and welcomed attendees. Self-introductions were made by all in attendance. Marvin explained the purpose of this and the remainder of the meetings scheduled in January. The goal of the meeting is to develop new core themes and of the accreditation 1st year report. Marv reminded the attendees what the current core themes are and suggested, if possible, that core themes be kept short, 2-3 words, so people can easily recall them. He encouraged participants to think big.

Co-Chair Emily Dean said there were only two rules: 1) to remember there are no stupid ideas; 2) everyone be allowed to participate. This is a “dreaming session” and everything said will be considered. Attendees counted off to form nine groups. The groups then started the brainstorming process and wrote down their ideas on the large papers posted on the walls around the room. After the allotted amount of time groups were combined to three larger groups who then identified their three main suggested core themes for their group. The groups were then brought back together. Emily went around to the groups to get their top choices for core themes which were then posted on the white board. Attendees then voted “Las Vegas” style with flags identifying their top five choices. The breakdown was as follows:

Continue Strong Community Feel (11)

- Partner with employers
- Partner with the community to meet needs
- Act as a gateway
- Provide national opportunities

The Academic “Thing” (25)

- Retention
- Student mentoring through students’ academic career
- Personalized approach
- Challenge ourselves and students
- Holistic education
- Rigorous pedagogy
- Qualified faculty
- High graduation rates, Learning Communities
- Degrees that are worth having
- Clear graduation requirements
- Love of learning

- Quality educational experience (implies learning not just teaching)

Unbounded Discovery (19)

- Research
- Academic freedom
- Experiential learning (hands-on learning/intellectual involvement at all levels)
- Service
- Learning outside and within the classroom
- Lifelong learning and in class

Promoting Social Responsibility (12)

- Stewardship
- In local, national, and global communities
- Natural, community and ethical responsibility/stewardship

Experience and Growth (11)

- Expand upon our existing Liberal Arts designation
- Increase UGRASP opportunities
- Encourage and celebrate Diverse Communities

Support for Faculty/Staff (20)

- Provide more opportunities for Professional growth
- Make Pay equity a priority
- Provide Fair benefits and wages to ensure a more engaged faculty/staff, which will help create a stronger campus community
- Make work expectations clear
- Better communications and technology at all levels

Adaptive Life-Long Learning (10)

- Including employees, not just students
- Today, tomorrow, 10 years from now
- Preparing for life, to be an educated citizen -- not just career focused (careers likely to change anyway over course of lifetime)

Open discussions followed. It was suggested that the points under the “Academic” suggestion impacts graduation rates and retention. You can look at “Support for Faculty/Staff” as a means to an end; a more engaged faculty/staff is vital to the institution. It was suggested that “Promoting Social Responsibility” and “Experience and Growth” could be related in purpose. It was also suggested that “Academic” and “Unbound Discovery” could be connected.

At 1:00 p.m. Emily and Marvin thanked all the participants and adjourned the session.

The next session will be held Thursday, January 15 at 11:30 a.m. in the Starlight Room.