

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE MEETING**

**January 22, 2015**

**Starlight Room**

Participants: 18 faculty/staff (primarily from the College of Education), 14 Task Force Members

Co-Chair Emily Dean called the meeting to order at 11:35 and welcomed attendees. Self-introductions were made. Emily explained the process that is currently taking place. The information gathered will be used to write the 1<sup>st</sup> year report for the accreditation process. She shared that many employees could not remember the current core themes and that we got dinged by the accreditation team on their visit. She instructed participants to write whatever came to their minds and it doesn't have to be one or two words, but should be something that can easily be remembered if asked.

She then had attendees count off to form six groups of three. The direction given was to brain storm for a set amount of time and write down all 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 break-down was as follows:

### **Quality of Education, Programs, Students, Pedagogy (12)**

- Quality towards what ends and objectives? (need to be more specific)
- What do we mean by Community?
  - Local Schools (K-12) are an important part of our community
  - National Parks and Federal Lands are a part of our community
  - SUU Stakeholders = our Community
- Raising index standards for students (less remediation) → higher quality of students
- Help create Engaged and Self-Directed learners
- Provide Multiple avenues of access to education (not just lectures)
- Foster Interrelationships between the colleges
- Spend more time engaging with students
- Needs balance; Balance with community in which they live

### **Teaching Quality That Produces Active, Independent Learners (16) (overlap with theme above noted)**

- Provide Room for Student Autonomy
- Teach with authentic texts, not just text books
- Make sure students have basic skills
- Emphasize a Progression of Skills
- We want our students to become informed and knowledgeable
- Think seriously about meaningful assessment

- Students need to become Responsible for their own learning

### **Thinkers and Doers (21)**

- Students as Problem Solvers
- Experiential learning
- Developing own inquiries and answers
- Professional development skills that transition into real life jobs
- Professional ethics
- Competencies/ Marketable competencies
- Rate of placement in grad and professional programs as a KPI
- Help Create Critical thinkers with experiences they'll carry forward into all areas of their lives

### **Connections (8)**

- With the community
- Connecting coursework to lives, majors and futures
- International experiences
- Internships

### **Enlightened Engagement (16)**

- Through experience and knowledge
- Providing opportunities for experiences
- Providing opportunities for meditative reflection (process, not just product)
  - Is there a tension between engagement and mediation?
  - Need time to disengage (from technology, etc.), disengaging is a good thing at times
  - Important to not be governed by technology (use it as a tool)
- Engagement towards what ends?
- Need to emphasize the Liberal Arts, not just vocational skills
- Provide our students with Experience not just the tools

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Marketable Competencies and Skills (13)**

- For Students and professors
- Learning Lives Forever!

Open discussions followed. Emily shared that all the suggestions from all groups would be compiled and used to develop new core themes and mission statement. The campus will have other opportunities to review developments. She also reminded all about the website and email and encouraged them to forward any additional thoughts and ideas either to the email, website or contact a member of the Task Force. Emily thanked all for attending and supporting the process.

The session was adjourned at 12:50.

The next session will be held Monday, January 26 at 3:00 a.m. in the Starlight Room.

