

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE MEETING**

**January 26, 2015**

**Starlight Room**

Participants: 24 faculty/staff (primarily staff), 13 Task Force Members

Co-Chair Marv Dodge called the meeting to order at 3:15 and welcomed attendees. Self-introductions were made. Marv explained the process that is currently taking place and the reason for it; the information gathered will be used to write the 1<sup>st</sup> year report for the accreditation process due March 1. He then reminded everyone in attendance what the current core themes were.

Co-Chair Emily Dean then reminded all that there were no bad ideas and shared one of the idea of an earlier group, "limitless learning environment," just as an example.

She then had attendees count off to form seven groups of three/four. The direction given was to brainstorm 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:

### **Opportunity for Continuing Improvement (15)**

- Every student matters
- Concern with student success and retention
- Individual mentoring
- Understanding student development
- First year experience, how life will change
- Psychological development
- Drives retention rate
- Learning doesn't end at the age of 21

### **Three "I's" – Individuality, Inclusivity, Innovation (29)**

- Personal attention to students
- Kindness (selling point to foreign students, in particular Korean)
- "I'm better than I was, the university is better because I came here"
- Natural beauty
- Safe environment
- Clean, unique geographic location (effective with international marketing)
- Lower population density but close to Las Vegas and an international airport
- Find the "sweet spot" ( in terms of size of institution)

- Right class size (it depends on the discipline)
- Right community size
- International/global perspective
- Experiential learning
- Diversity
- Market Responsiveness
- Future looking
- Academic flexibility
- Real world experience
- Personal attention upon arrival on campus (especially important for foreign students)

### **Building Your Future From Classroom to Career (11)**

#### **Global Impact (8)**

- Sense of purpose
- Diversity
- Students will go out into the world and the world will come here

#### **Community Interdependence (13)**

- Difficult to narrow it down to one community
- Cedar City depends on SUU/SUU depends on Cedar City – foster this relationship
- What can we give back to the community?
- What opportunities can the community provide to SUU?
- SUU belongs to several communities
- The relationship is not a 1-way street, both sides must give

#### **Everyone is a Teacher (18)**

- Everyone on campus has a chance to interact with students
- Everyone will mentor each other
- Staff see selves as educators, too
- Opportunity to develop new competencies, to add value to self and the institution
- Culture to encompass entire campus
- Staff be able to take a class to further education
- Staff recognition of their accomplishments
- Educator rather than service provider
- Continuous learning environment
- Empower people to act
- Culture that emphasizes continuous learning

#### **Personal Connections (12)**

Open discussions followed. It was asked if students will be involved in the process. Marv shared that there are two different phases and that additional meetings will be scheduled, including meetings that involve students. Students want a chance to weigh in on the core themes and a meeting is being worked on to accommodate them later this week. We do currently have two students on the Task Force, Jeff Hertig and Paige Christensen.

It was asked how the community will be involved. Marv shared that there will be community events held to ask for feedback and asking the question – what can we do better.

There is no pre-written plan in place, it will be built with the ideas and thoughts gathered in these meetings. That is why participation is vital to this process. Marv asked the group to please stay engaged with the process. He also explained that the new strategic plan will be directly tied to budget over the next 5-10 years.

Marv and Emily thanks all for their attendance and participation – it really matters.

The session was adjourned at 3:40.

The next session will be held Tuesday, January 27 at 9:00 a.m. in the Brianhead Room.