

STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE MEETING

January 30, 2015

Starlight Room

Participants: Carmen Alldredge, Jenna Ayers, Mitch Bealer, Mindy Benson, Keith Bradshaw, Tina Calamity, Emily Dean (co-chair), Marvin Dodge (co-chair), Danielle Dubrasky, Briget Eastep, Tiger Funk, Bill Heyborne, Erick Kirby, James Loveland, David Lunt, Johnny MacLean, Shauna Mendini, Mary Pearson, Phil Roche, James Sage, Deb Snider, Nicole Wangagard, Jennifer Oberhelman (recorder)

Marv Dodge welcomed the Task Force members who attend and thanked them for their participation. A brief discussion was held about the different dynamics of the various groups. He also explained that the attendance for the students meeting was an interesting mix because an announcement was made to ULA students they should attend to express their desire to do away with the EDGE program. Thanks to task force members, discussions were kept on track to explore options for core themes rather than allowing it to turn into a referendum on EDGE. He also talked about the Athletics meeting. He said it seemed there is a major concern about the future of Athletics from in an out of the meeting but there is no need for angst. Various options will be explored to improve our programs but Athletics will still remain a part of SUU. A meeting will be scheduled for dialogue in the near future. President Wyatt has had conversations with some of the other presidents in the Big Sky, basically discussing the situation of the haves vs. the have nots.

The February 5 lunch meeting will have to be postponed because Marv will have to be in Salt Lake City for legislative hearings. It was changed to 11:30 on Thursday, February 12 in the Starlight Room. Jennifer will make the arrangements and resend the invitation. It was also suggested that Tuesdays and Thursdays are the best days to have meeting and 4 p.m. is also a good time for most.

Emily Dean asked for feedback from the attendees as to what they heard while going from group to group. The following list outlined the feedback.

- Something that speaks to closeness between and staff/faculty/students
- Experiential and personalized
- Geographic location
- Faculty/staff be able to grow and develop
- The thought that we're all in this together
- A more inclusive feeling, getting rid of the silos
- High quality, best possible education, high standards for all
- Three main areas – academics, local, community (value working within all types of communities)
- Intentional learning – higher bar and outcomes
- Measure what alumni are doing
- Tout what we are doing in the community

- KPI's will define core themes
- Should we drive from KPI's up? The thought was yes, this is a good approach
- Students are asking for more help, there is more need, are there things we can do to accommodate?
- Not all knowledge is equal, this is felt to be an untrue statement
- More mentoring programs for at risk students and better information disseminated about what is currently available
- Students want more weekend activities, what is scheduled is hard to find on the calendar, better marketing needed
- More student space requested for leisure, studying, hanging out
- Communication problem, information not getting out to enough people
- Suggested marquee be purchased (this has been done) to announce campus events
- Master calendar be kept easily accessible
- The community doesn't know what's happening on campus
- Concept of sustainability across the campus for the long-haul
- Building more, better communities
- Be better integrated
- Connections within the community

It was suggested a defining word be identified for each core theme. This will make it more memorable. One member of the task force asked if we could have just one core theme and suggested "Personalized Education" as a possibility. Marvin pointed out that many at SUU believe their small class size is unique and should be a significant selling point, however, Snow College tells the same story so we need to expand this further. Other suggestions were:

- We take them further
- Quality in all we do

More discussion about the following:

- Accessibility to everything
- Suggested making contact with alumni for mentoring students (Mindy said 400 alumni were available but no students have taken advantage of the opportunity)
- We need to better educate and communicate with students about what's available to them
- KPI's for removing silos
- Building rigor in programs
- Focus on what we can do
- Take EDGE back to the departments to better tailor the projects to the majors
- Students won't buy into EDGE until faculty does, this has not happened yet
- Career preparation and being thinkers, holistic approach, not just education for jobs but for life
- Individualized education/experience

Emily and Marv asked the task force to submit KPI's prior to the February 12 meeting.

The next session will be held Thursday, February 12 at 11:30 p.m. in the Starlight Room. Lunch will be provided.