

STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE MEETING

March 3, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.

Shooting Star Room

Participants: Marvin Dodge (Co-Chair), Emily Dean (Co-Chair), Jenna Ayers, Mindy Benson, Johnny MacLean, Shauna Mendini, Deb Snider, Jared Wilcken, Jennifer Oberhelman (recorder), 8 attendees from University College, Continuing Education and the Library.

Marv Dodge welcome everyone at 3:05. He shared the good news that President Wyatt met with a representative from NWCCU, Sandra Elman, along with the other presidents of institutions in Utah to discuss their concerns about the accreditation process. She and President Wyatt met one-on-one after to discuss specific concerns. After the meeting was completed she said if we flesh out the new Core Themes and get a second report in by mid-May our accreditation will be reaffirmed.

This group was a smaller size than the last group so it was decided to just have an open discussion. The questions were asked – Who are we? Where should we be? What are the opportunities missed? Conversation was outlined.

Strengths

- Commitment on campus - it was mentioned that there is something that prevents initiatives being “actionable.”
- Beautiful campus, location, weather - it was felt this was a big draw for both students and employees. It helps recruit faculty. Being close to the National Parks is a plus
- Academic track - tenured, terminal degrees
- Infrastructure of engaged learning – this helps students understand what employers want but it’s not seen in all classes. We need to clarify what learning is
- LEAP – we’re there now
- Size – nimble

Weaknesses

- Worries about concurrent enrollment commitment to schools – faculty load concerns
- Faculty salaries – this doesn’t emphasize their accomplishments, quality and rigor
- “Terminal” learning – need to take advantage of Continuing Ed. Opportunities for professional development. Need more than one size fits all program development
- Small pockets institutionalized sub-achievers – are our standards clear? Heavy work-load, low pay. Incentives. What lights from within? Need for air cover. Talent management
- Curriculum lacks integration with professional data/info – process
- Students don’t understand how to develop professional map/vision

Opportunities

- Need to market faculty qualifications

- Potential for non-tenured contracts for some entry level faculty
- Clarify peoples roles – mismatch between institutional goals and reality, accountability, what we say vs. what we mean, confusion of accreditation process
- Position descriptions – engage educators
- Orientation for new faculty on engaged learning
- Willing to engage in very open and safe debate

Threats

- Nobody willing to take a risk!
- Dixie and UVU
- USHE – funding allocation
- Institution heritage and tradition – need to remain relevant in a new world
- Safe place to share an honest voice – suggestion box

Hopes and Aspirations

- Have engaged learning really take off at SUU – be known for our engaged learning
- Be purposeful about our path
- Be more concerned with staff and faculty well-being, support aspirations and growth for all (not just students; staff and faculty also)
- Rallying/supportive/cheering for each other
- Be known nationally for a high quality education (better marketing, internal and external communication)
- Integrate data into all classes; make sure all are competent informationally in their fields (digital literacy, etc.); exploit library faculty shamelessly!
- Have enthusiastic support of community
- Have SUU recognized for its general awesomeness on state and national levels
- Tolerant and inclusive and diverse
- Integrated and streamlined communication – increase communication to departments (internally) on campus, decrease isolation/increase connectivity

What We Don't Want To Become

- Not UVU, don't return to being a junior/remedial college
- Not a parochial/narrow-minded institution
- Not be irrelevant/mired in the past
- Don't want to see us suppress diversity (multi-faceted definition)
- Cut off from the community

No voting took place during this general discussion.

The next Task Force meeting will take place 3/17 at 3 p.m. in the Charles Hunter Room for discussion (no outside attendees).