

Strategic Priorities Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 26, 2021

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom Video Conference

Attending: Melinda Lowe, Kimberly Dorsey, Mea Ashley, Kelly Bennett, David Brooking, Melissa Buxton, Brooke Carter, Lyndsay Cumberland, Shawn Dickey, Kendall Dunkelberg, Mark Ellard, Andrew Garner, Glen Halbert, Jessica Harpole, Margaret Hayward, Iika McCarter, Tammie McCoy, Chad Murphy, Nicole Patrick, Anika Perkins, Amanda Clay Powers, and Karleigh Shelton

The meeting was called to order. The primary purpose of this meeting was for each team to present their goals for their theme and receive feedback.

Anika Perkins presented goals for **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**:

- Create an inclusive and equitable campus climate reflective of the growing diversity in our communities, state and nation
- Communicate mission and or vision statement on inclusive values
- Connect internal and external constituencies to opportunities at the university
- Capture, promote and enhance overall curriculum and programming that enhances multicultural awareness and understanding

Mea Ashley presented goals for **Community Connections**:

- Cultivate collaborations to create a holistic approach to a healthy and thriving (vibrant) community
- Provide outreach to underserved and diverse populations
- Forge meaningful and engaged partnerships that provide real-life experiences for students
- Contribute to the cultural enrichment of the community

David Brooking presented goals for **Degree Completion**:

- Recruit a diverse undergraduate and graduate student body to ensure a vital university community
- Provide a wide range of academic programs to meet the needs of today's student
- Provide equal access to advising, mentoring, and support services to all students
- Assist students in achieving financial, emotional and mental well-being
- Support students through degree completion and into their careers

Lyndsay Cumberland presented goals for **Advancement Excellence**:

- Continue a culture of giving
- Foster pride in the university and its programs

- Offer more programming representative of alumni base
- Provide resources to assist students with financial stability
- Enhance services to shape career-ready graduates

Amanda Clay Powers presented goals for **Academic Excellence** and **Financial Sustainability**:

Academic Excellence

- Providing a comprehensive academic experience that fosters critical thinking, excellence in written and oral communication, creative expression, and civic engagement
- Creating life-long learners and valuable members of today's global economy to face the challenges of an ever-changing marketplace
- Recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty and staff to enrich the educational experience and create an inclusive and equitable campus environment
- Providing resources to foster excellence in the teaching of both online and in person educational experiences

Financial Sustainability

- Developing a strategic budget model and innovative business practices to safeguard and enhance the financial health of the university
- Enhancing and maintaining campus infrastructure and facilities appropriate for an historic public regional university, to improve security, stability, and access
- Investing in inclusive faculty and staff recruitment and retention by establishing equitable salaries compared to peer institutions across the regions
- Providing departments with needed resources and technology to enhance academic excellence and insure the growth of the university

Each group received feedback regarding their goals. There was discussion concerning the mission statement and the possibility of recommending updates or language changes.

This week the teams need to develop paragraphs under their goals to better explain them as well as shorten or modify the goals. Since next Friday is Good Friday, the next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, April 1 at 9:00 am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

