

Strategic Priorities Planning Committee Meeting Listening Session

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Zoom Video Meeting

Attending: Melinda Lowe, Kimberly Dorsey, Kelly Bennett, Brooke Carter, Lyndsay Cumberland, Amanda Dahl, Kendall Dunkelberg, Andrew Garner, Margaret Hayward, Tammie McCoy, Chad Murphy, Anika Perkins, Amanda Clay Powers, Hillary Richardson, David Brooking, Kim Whitehead, Jessica Harpole, Mark Ellard, Cherie Labat, Nora Miller, Nora Corrigan, Bonnie Oppenheimer, Reyna Vergara, Andrew Moneymaker, Kimberly Davis, Debbie Lancaster, Amy Mobley, Julia Mortyakova, Tyler Wheat, Shaye Dente, Elaine Walker, Susan Sobley, Penny Mansell, Marty Brock, Candy Grant, Leigh Anne Puckett, Tara Sullivan, Andrea Osbirn, Todd Bunnell, Karen George, Sacha Dawkins, Monique Tillman, Amber Shaw, Marla Fisher, Angela Jones, Laura Quinn, Deb Wells, Maris Braddock, Shelia Morgan, Karen Partain, Ginger Smith and Leslie Arnold

President Miller started the session with a welcome. She thanked the committee members and explained the shorter period for the process as well as the process itself this year. This year, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is a stand-alone pillar as well as being included in all other pillars of the plan. These priorities will be used for budget planning and as units are developing their assessment plans, looking at how they can incorporate these priorities and see progress and change over the next five years.

Amanda Clay Powers presented Academic Excellence and Financial Sustainability.

Lyndsay Cumberland presented Advancement Excellence.

Hillary Richardson presented Community Connections.

David Brooking presented Degree Completion.

Anika Perkins presented Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Melinda shared that the goals are very broad at this point and would like to hear feedback for the committee for objectives going forward, as both broad objectives and departmental suggestions that could be broadened out for the campus objectives. A link was shared with all attending for feedback after the session (to be sent in by May 5) as well as the link for the proposed document including all the priorities.

A question was asked if there was a plan to hire a full time chief diversity officer. This would probably be answered by the DEI Council. President Miller indicated this position is being considered.

It was mentioned that it would be helpful to have live streaming capabilities for all departments in relation to the regional and global community. This has been done during COVID, but would be very useful going forward.

President Miller addressed a question about renovation of buildings on campus, this is in the campus Master Plan and is reviewed periodically.

Concern was expressed that first time freshmen with diverse or underserved backgrounds need financial aid, not just transfer students. Students not being able to buy books at the beginning of the semester was another concern.

The session was concluded and a reminder that feedback should be sent by May 5.

