Meeting of the Strategic Planning Development Team (SPDT)
6/11/15

SPDT Attending: Carlos Crespo, CeCe Ridder, Chas Lopez, Susan Lindsay, Mark Jones, Sonja Taylor, Michael Bowman, Rayleen McMillan, Steve Percy, Ethan Seltzer, Darrell Brown, Jennifer Ruth, Ralf Widenhorn, Nora Wendl, Nicole Morris, Mathew Johnson, Jamal Green, Lisa Zurk, Sona Andrews, Gayle Thieman, Kelly Cowan, Irving Levin

SPDT Absent: Kim Cooper, Pam Miller, Dilafruz Williams, Erin Flynn, Keva Miller, Noor Delaughn, Pat Wetzel, Rob Fullmer

SPDT Staff: Harry Esteve, Susy Munson, Kari St. Peters - PM, Mark Wubbold, Consultants: Matthew Landkamer, Michelle Janke, Guests: Wim Wiewel, Kathi Ketcheson

Chair: Call to order at 8:05 am.

Coraggio: Began review of the work of the remaining Topic Teams:

- Innovative Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities
- Campus Climate
- Faculty Roles and Structures

Innovative Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities

- There was concern expressed that some initiatives pitted research against teaching.
• The intention of the initiative was to put more emphasis on graduate education because the needs of graduate differ from those of undergraduates.
• There is a particular need for graduate advisors so they get the type of information that can help them navigate PSU’s systems more easily.

SPDT Q. Do we want to address the issues that would enable the growth of specific fields within the SP?

Coraggio A. You want to pursue great opportunities, but not limit yourself to particular degrees and programs at the SP level. You want to include a directional statement in the SP that emphasizes this type of innovation.

Campus Climate

• This initiative is primarily about improving campus communication.
• There was concern that while a General Assembly initiative could improve campus communications, it could also complicate them and the decision making process by adding another layer of bureaucracy to an already complicated environment.

SPDT Q. How would a General Assembly improve the STUDENT experience?

A. Campus communications is a chronic challenge that can really only solved when folks take responsibility for keeping themselves and their units informed.

Faculty Roles and Structure

WW: Developing a tenure-like track for teaching professors may be the single biggest idea in all the TTs. It is important - but he feels like it is not taken as serious here as it should be, nor developed as thoroughly as it should be in the initiative. It is an idea with such impacts that it will require a lot of thought and talk before moving ahead with.

• The main aim of this TT’s set of initiatives was to focus on teaching excellence. T
• The group struggled to come to consensus on their initiatives.
• In addition to teaching excellence, this TT focused on job security for faculty.
• There was some concern that job security for faculty can reduce operational flexibility and increase costs.
• There was discussion about the type of relationship-based teaching that takes place in universities where community based learning is one of the dominant pedagogies: faculty, student needs and concerns.

Chair: Explained that a volunteer group would be compiling the first draft of the report this summer and that they will have it ready for consideration by the full SPDT when we all return in the fall.
PM: Discussed fall scheduling. TT reports are going up on website so we will be able to get feedback on that. When we return in the fall there will be an early stretch of outreach, with two town halls the week of Halloween.

WW: Closing remarks and thanks to the SPDT for their service this year.

**Meeting adjourned:** at 9:39 am

**Next meeting:** TBD
Themes (key themes in bold)

- Should we align on key academic areas of focus, as a strategic move?
  - E.G. sustainability
- Communication
  - Interest in personal connection
  - Transparency
  - Staff
- Differentiation of grad student needs and undergrad needs
- Relationship between communication and trust
- Excellence
  - Research
  - Faculty roles
  - Student learning
  - Teaching-intensive
  - Staff
- Support
  - Availability of P.D. support (professional development
  - Academic freedom
  - Staff
- Ongoing creation of value
  - Research
  - Teaching
  - Recruitment
  - Staff
- Strategies for student success
  - Advising
  - Community partnerships
• Interconnectedness and complexity
  o We want to be these things
  o In terms of richness of thoughts
• Diversity is also very complex at this University
  o Be institutionally prepared
• Social connections as vehicle for understanding
• Interest in interacting with a great diversity of people
  o Students
  o Faculty
  o Cross-pollination
• PSU Identity and “spirit”
  o Sense of community

Missing
• Staff feels under represented