

MEETING NOTES

Strategic planning steering committee Inaugural meeting – 8.21.13

SPSC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Max Barnhart, Steve Bradley, Dottie Caplan, Kathleen Carroll, Phil Farabaugh, Aryya Gangopadhyay, Tyson King-Meadows, Kim Leisey, Carole McCann, Dan Miller, Yvette Mozie-Ross, Philip Rous, Mavis Sanders, Lynne Schaefer, Greg Simmons, Jack Suess, and Bruce Walz.

SENIOR ADVISORS PRESENT:

Lisa Akchin, Michael Dillon, Peter Henderson, John Martello, Pat McDermott, Tony Moreira, Julianne Simpson, Valerie Thomas, and Charlene Uhl.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM PRESENT:

Roland King, Connie Pierson, Leslie Tinker, Jill Wardell, and Terri Werner.

AGENDA

Planning Process and Roles

- Introductions Steering Committee, Senior Advisors, Technical Assistance Team
- Guiding Principles, Process Structure & Roles, Timeline
- Full Group Discussion: Agents of Responsibility/What Assets Each Brings Role

Vision and Values

- Campus survey results: Vision Fit
- Theme Team Report: Vision and Values
- Table Discussion: What elements of the current vision support our aspirations? What else needs to be included to inspire us to the next level of success?

Focus Areas for Planning

- Theme Team Report: Focus Areas for Planning
- Table Discussion: What are the drivers of our success today? How will these be similar or different in the future?

Future Activities

- Fall meeting schedule
 - October 10 retreat
 - Full Group Wrap-Up Comments: What do we need to do to ensure a successful planning process?
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DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Planning Process and Roles – Provost Rous

We are beginning a process to inspire the University to achieve the next level of excellence. Each of us will be involved in defining what that is.

As Steering Committee members, we are “agents of responsibility,” with accountability for both process leadership and decision-making. As process leaders, we are charged with: 1) engaging stakeholders; 2) broadly communicating the work of the Steering Committee and associated Strategy Groups; 3) determining focus areas to be addressed by Strategy Groups and appointing Strategy Group leaders; 4) serving as co-chairs of Strategy Groups where appropriate; and 5) incorporating information analysis in the process. As decision-makers, we are charged with vetting and integrating goals, strategies, and metrics proposed by Strategy Groups and developing the final plan document.

Members of the Council of Deans and Vice Presidents are the executive sponsors of the planning process. Their role includes: 1) facilitating interactive communication about planning activities within divisions, colleges, and senates; 2) providing information and expertise as needed to support the process; 3) aligning strategic objectives that emerge from the process with three- to five- year University priorities, budgets, policies, and metrics; and 4) aligning strategic objectives that emerge from the process with the work of divisions and colleges. The Steering Committee and Council of Deans and Vice Presidents will meet together periodically throughout the process.

DISCUSSION - ASSETS MEMBERS BRING: Technology support for the process, connections to a range of campus groups, commitment to strategy driving budget, experience balancing research and education, shared governance experience, external community relationships, understanding of students and culture/diversity, ability to engage student participation, close relationships with K-12 community, understanding of graduate student interests, understanding of staff perspective, global perspective (K-16) about teaching and learning, translation between University and external partners, alumni perspective.

PROVOST ROUS: Clearly, there is a broad array of perspectives, experiences, and networks represented in the Steering Committee. It is also very good to hear that everyone is approaching this task feeling the work we do together has to benefit the entire UMBC community.

VISION

DISCUSSION – WHAT ELEMENTS OF THE CURRENT VISION SUPPORT OUR ASPIRATIONS?

“Combining the traditions of the liberal arts academy, the creative intensity of the research university, and the social responsibility of the public university”; broad perspective; “best public research university of our size.”

DISCUSSION – WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED TO INSPIRE US TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF SUCCESS?

“Excellence” is missing; “advancement of all aspects of society”; move “integrating reaching, research and civic engagement to the top; reflect our unique culture; environmental responsibility; relate to values; include all aspects of university; our community; define “best”; examine whether size is the right descriptor; capture “quality”; what is the character we want to maintain?

FOCUS AREAS FOR PLANNING

DISCUSSION – CURRENT DRIVERS OF SUCCESS: Undergraduate education, research, location, classroom innovation, quality and diversity of student body, value to price, entrepreneurial and flexible nature, supporting our community, visionary leadership, external visibility and reputation, State investments, strength across disciplines, focused and intentional.

DISCUSSION – WAYS DRIVERS WILL BE SIMILAR/DIFFERENT IN FUTURE: Retain flexibility, include students more, use technology to improve business and academic innovation, apply technology in the context of our values/moral center, expand locations, expand innovation, expand infrastructure, focus, understand needs of State, understand organizational life cycle, understand role of organizational structure to support interdisciplinarity, holistic view of student experience, strategy should continue to drive budget.

PROVOST ROUS: It is very important to understand our strengths across the campus in every discipline. A great university is built on all of its disciplines. It is important to understand the relationships of all aspects of our work and not create focus areas that become silos. There will be substantial overlap.

NEXT STEPS

The Steering Committee and Council of Deans & Vice Presidents will meet October 10, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Rolling Road Golf Club for a retreat with James Honan of the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The principal goals for the day will be first drafts of updated vision language and a set of planning focus areas and charges for campus discussion this fall.

The Steering Committee will meet twice monthly in the fall semester. A slate of meeting dates will be shared soon.

DISCUSSION – WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO ASSURE A SUCCESSFUL PLANNING PROCESS? Steering Committee members need to leave each meeting with a uniform message to share with colleagues, part of each meeting should be summarizing what we did, *insights* can be a vehicle to share summary of discussion and explain how people can connect to the process, a word map could provide a visual summary of each meeting, make sure each member has a voice and feels heard, start difficult discussions with process rules.

DOCUMENTS

See attached:

Steering Committee Roster
Guiding Principles for Planning
Planning Process Diagram
Planning Timeline