

Notes from the Academic Visioning Steering Team Meeting, 2-18-2015

Members Present: VP Doug McMillan, VP Bryon Clark, EDAA Lucretia Scoufos, Martin Bressler, Robert Stevens, Larry Prather, Chris Moretti, Teena Henry

So far the Academic Visioning process has been taking place in a joint Academic Affairs-Faculty Senate group consisting of VP McMillan, VP Clark, and the Senate Executive Committee. This group met repeatedly in the fall semester. We're now going to expand the set of people involved and break it into two parts:

Advisory Group - The Senate Executive Committee. This group will function as an "ideas group"/think tank.

Steering Team - Consisting of the members listed above.

As Senate Chair Dr. Moretti will act as the link between the two groups.

We're working on an Vision/Mission for the Academic unit only. The goal is to get something in "final draft form", as the academic Vision will need to be folded into a more general strategic vision. Hopefully the academic Vision will be a core which can be expanded to the more general university Vision. It may seem unusual to work from a component unit out; but we think it's best for academics/faculty to lead the way and drive as much of the process as we can.

The general idea is to determine what is distinctive about Southeastern in terms of the Academic unit.

We will need to overcome failures of execution in previous strategic planning (Vision 2005, etc.). It is particularly important that the faculty "buy in" to the Vision. This is one of the big reasons we want the Academic unit to lead the way, as well why it's important to get faculty important from important segments (Senate, Academic Council) as well as promote awareness of what is going on as we near a final draft form (ex: Symposium presentation).

In terms of data sources we will be using:

Existing data: Program reviews, accreditation reports

Academic Council: Statements of area "strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, obstacles", due February 26th.

Noel Levitz Survey: More than 500 potential respondents asked to participate

Survey is open until March 9th

Currently stands at about 23% response rate

Parallels the student version which we have already given - this enables a "gap report" between the student responses and the new responses. This can be done by the second week of March or so.

Focus groups: There is not enough time to realistically get focus groups running this spring; Dean Scoufos will try to organize some in the fall (students, faculty, staff, alumni, administrative)

One gap in the available data is the alumni group. We could create our own survey in house. Noel Levitz has an alumni survey they can do, but it costs about \$6,500 and we would probably need to partner to fund it (additional note: Kyle Stafford has indicated some interest and is willing to put up some funding for it).

Initial data analysis can hopefully be done by some of the department chairs and faculty who with some experience (suggested names: Tim Smith, Glenn Melancon, Jamie Knapp, Chris Moretti)

We'll try to hold another preliminary meeting of the Steering Team the week of February 23-27. We have four principal dates for major meetings for the rest of the semester. The dates and general topics are:

March 25th, 2015: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Data Review

April 1st, 2015: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Data Review

April 8th, 2015: 1:00-3:00
Vision & Mission Statement led by VP's McMillan and Clark
Goals & Values (time permitting) led by Martin Bressler and Robert Stevens

April 22, 2015: 1:00-3:00
Goals & Values led by Martin Bressler and Robert Stevens

These meetings are open to everyone from the Advisory group (i.e. Senate Executive Committee) and all members of the Faculty Senate who are interested.