University Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2018

Attendance:

Absent: Chacon, Manuel

Introduction:
Jasmine Laine will be the staff support person. Leana Schelvan is going to communicate for us, so we stay in close communication (in both ways) with the community.

There will be three co-conveners to help run the work of the committee and flesh out the timeline: Paul Kirgis, Megan Stark, and Braden Fitzgerald.

President’s Opening Remarks:
- Hard, but critically important work.
- Must be collaborative, data-informed
- Compressed timeline, but not starting from scratch.
- Calling on shared governance, other groups, such as Regents professors, stakeholders
- Two purposes:
  o Crystalize the identity of this University.
  o Align on academic areas where we will seek excellence, within the context of a smaller budget, working toward fiscal sustainability

Guiding Principles:
1. Our work is to focus on those areas where we can drive and sustain excellence, and where we can find important interdisciplinary opportunities. Limping along with across-the-board cuts leads us only to future mediocrity and across-the-board misery. Our job is to choose and sharpen excellence.

2. We’re all institutional citizens for the UM of tomorrow. This work is not about us as individuals, but about the vibrancy and long-term sustainability of the university. We are acting as stewards of this 125-year-old institution, so it can continue to meet the needs of our students and our state. In everything, we’ll keep students at the forefront.
3. This must be an evidence-based and data-informed process. We will assess and synthesize the data we have available to make decisions as wisely and objectively as we can. There will be decisions about areas we cannot sustain; not necessarily about quality, but about alignment with mission and reality of budget.

4. We want to foster an honest and inclusive committee dialogue. Everyone will have the opportunity to provide input and counsel as we move ahead. We will be transparent about what we’re doing and what we’re talking about. The process isn’t over until the process is over — so we won’t hold back, even if it leads to some debate. When our discussions are over, we’ll honor this process and stand behind our collective recommendations to campus.

Charge:

Part One:
- **Mission/Identity subgroup**: Examine our current mission and propose changes to ensure a concise, clear, and compelling University of Montana Mission Statement.
  - Input: APASP, SPCC and data, our current mission statement, external reports & PRG analysis (communication consultants), BBER data (future of higher education report)
  - Output: Refreshed, clear, concise, and compelling mission statement for UM. We owe it to ourselves to have a memorable mission statement so people can see how everything they do connects to the mission.
  - Output: 4-6 areas of excellence. Use principle of "strength applied to greatest opportunity".

Part Two:
- **Data Analysis & Implications for Program Offerings sub-group**:
  - Input: APASP, SPCC, enrollment trends, demographic analysis, external university market reviews
  - Output: Concise synthesis of trends, data, ratings and information from previous processes and other inputs including ranking of academic programs.
    - taking APASP information/analysis and layering additional information to look at programs
  - Output: Recommendations for programmatic alignment, investment and disinvestment

**Subgroup membership:**

Subgroup 1, Mission & Identity:
- Chris, Nadia, Reed, Linda, Charity, Braden, Steve, Matt, Scott

Subgroup 2, Data Analysis & Program Offering:
- Tom Deluca, Paul, Luke, Jill, Megan, Alexandria, Rafael, Tim, Charity (also)
Next Steps:

**Committee Schedule:**
- Co-convenors are asked to put form to the basis of work for each week and create the timeline.
- The consideration of preliminary conclusions and 4-6 areas of excellence should be completed before spring break.
- We cannot sit in limbo for another 7-8 months. It might feel uncomfortable to move so fast but the continued drift of uncertainty is killing excellence.
- To meet the timeline, sub-groups will have to meet weekly. They must be established today and meet next week. (Jasmine will work on scheduling.)
- Inputs will also be collected next week.
- Work for the two subgroups:
  - The work of sub-group 1 is almost over early in the semester.
  - As of now, both groups need to be working. The program alignment group needs to be starting to collect information, their work will increase later. The Mission/Identity group will be doing the bulk of their work right away, and then can turn their focus.
- We have to keep the current student body in mind and how they will be affected. This can't be an after-thought. It has to be in the forefront.
  - Be mindful of student registration and those deadlines and potential course changes.