University Planning Committee Meeting Summary
Mission/Identity Subgroup
March 5, 2018 | 12:00-2:00 pm | UH 004

Attendance:

Present: Angle, Atteberry, Barnes, Comer, Fitzgerald, Humphrey, Lindsay, Ratto-Parks, Schwarze, Schlevan, Semanoff, White, Whittenburg

Introduction:

1. Call to Order
2. Recap
   
   We reviewed and invited discussion on the emails exchanged between subgroup members between Friday, 3/2, and Monday, 3/5. Discussion included:

   - Prioritizing areas of strength/pillars to present to UPC on 3/9
   - Bringing in Justin Angle to help facilitate our work in the area of identity
   - Historical perspective, 2013-present
   - “Big Issues,” “Grand Challenges,” “Burning Questions”

Discussion:

1. Consensus on charge
   
   We discussed the charge to the Mission/Identity subgroup. Our current area of focus is to identify 4-6 areas of excellence in which there are existing strengths and evidence of opportunities for growing the University strategically.

2. Communication to internal and external stakeholders
   
   Stakeholders’ interpretation of these areas is important and must be considered.

3. Operational definitions and wordsmithing
   
   We agree that crafting operational definitions for each of the 4-6 areas is critical (example: storytelling). Wordsmithing is important, but perhaps our time is best spent leaving the wordsmithing to others with expertise in this area.

   
   The M/I subgroup discussed whether we should consider issues that we face as a society and as the University. Are we identifying what strengths we possess in these areas and/or those we wish to have these areas? Are we honoring President Bodnar’s “strength to opportunity” piece?
5. Core Curriculum
   - We continued the discussion on whether the core curriculum belongs in the 4-6 pillars/areas of excellence. The subgroup discussed liberal arts and revisited our charge. Some of what we have been talking about seems aspirational. What is the role of identity? Opportunity is where we may be able to sharpen our identity.

6. Cross threads
   - The group examined cross threads – those things that we want everyone to be able to do and that happen across disciplines.

7. Visual/Exercise
   - We engaged in an exercise where graphing existing strengths and opportunities facilitated discussion of pillars/areas of excellence as well as cross threads. Different visuals were offered to the group, including a bicycle wheel and lattice.

Next Steps:

1. Input
   - Dean Humphreys will solicit input on tentative pillars/areas of excellence.
   - The group will meet again on Tuesday, 3/6, to further develop pillars/areas of excellence to bring to the UPC on 3/9. Meeting is scheduled from 1-3 pm in UC 215.
   - We will need to sharpen the pillars/areas of excellence, describe each with a sentence, and consider crafting a rationale as to why we believe these to be areas of strength applied to opportunity.
   - The group must also not lose sight of “Grand Challenges” and value-added, interdisciplinary themes discussed today.