Update
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Summary of Strategic Planning Committee: October 12th

With the material collected from the group during the last meeting, 7 different possible areas were identified: human capital, outputs, culture, creative research, teaching, metrics, and resources. Committee members were asked to choose three areas that they wanted to concentrate on in anticipation of breaking up into subcommittees.

Meetings with Departments

The following represents questions and topics raised during the last week’s meetings attended by David Brown and Jeff Cox.

1. Critical Media Studies

- CMS is a very interdisciplinary group whose goal is to be very porous. IWP and Remark American were mentioned as possible models for interdisciplinarity.
- A big barrier they see is the contradiction between allocations based on student credit hours/majors and interdisciplinarity.
- Childcare on campus is a problem.
- We need to diversify both the faculty and student body.
- Could we emphasize majors designed by students rather than departmental majors?
- There needs to be funding for getting graduate students from different departments together.
- There needs to be some sort of coordinating effort to bring all of the arts together.
- Space for different kinds of teaching would be very helpful.
- Atlas institute or places like it need to be expanded.
- We need to emphasize more practice-based pedagogies.
- NEST is a good example of what the college needs to be doing.
- Need more centralized spaces for doing collaborative work.

2. Staff (Old Main, Advising, and Advancement)

- We need to develop better communication between units and advancement so that donors or potential donors can see how their money will be used.
- Advisors have case loads with too many students.

Executive summary: we’re rapidly moving from our vision statement to identifying the areas we will actually be working on for the next few months. The three areas we’re going to concentrate on will be posted after our next meeting (one week ahead of schedule). As always, please send any ideas to David Brown at dsbrown@colorado.edu. Also feel free to engage the committee members with your ideas.
• We need to think about interdisciplinarity as something more than just academic departments working together. Instead, we need to think about how ALL units on campus can help toward enriching our research and teaching (this means working more closely with the libraries, advising, and staff in general). Teamwork!

3. Germanic and Slavic Studies

• How are we using Flagship 2030?
• Isn’t it disturbing that relatively few people are showing up for facilitated meetings in the academic futures process?
• Will all of this planning actually make a difference?
• It’s fine to think big picture, but we can’t offer suggestions unless we have a little more detail.
• ‘tech speak’ is difficult to deal with.
• We’re behind many universities (first year experiences) in many ways.
• Do we really have the scope to change things radically?
• By focusing on student credit hours we might be sacrificing retention.
• We don’t need to necessarily do something different. We can concentrate on what we do well.
• The process should include more about discovery.
• Do we allow students the luxury to explore and discover things?
• Are there any humanists in the academic advising groups or conversations?

4. Classics

• We need to pay attention to how many adjuncts we’re hiring.
• Humanities needs to be better connected with everything else. It should not be considered as part of something separate.
• There needs to be some discussions about keeping tuition low.
• Are there outside members on the SPC and AF committees?
• What about the break up rumors (separate colleges)?
• The process seems rushed, is there something coming down the pike we should be worried about?
• Where should faculty concentrate their efforts here?

5. Libraries

• We shouldn’t be thinking of students as customers.
• Open Access and transparency should be emphasized.
• The libraries should be taught of a good place to start thinking about inter-disciplinarity
• Access and cost to students should be important in this process.
• The nature of the library has changed: space, Open Access, opening opportunities for faculty and students.
• More could be given to students in the humanities on how to find jobs.
• Lots of need things are happening with FYSM and special collections.
• Libraries can help in any retention discussion.
• Process question. What about the listeners?
• Diversity is a big concern and the libraries can help when thinking about compassion and diversity.
• While the libraries may be looking more and more like Google, they’re not. They are ready to help with creativity and critical thinking.
• How are the two processes going to deal with the public.
• We need to think about how to do more face-to-face.

6. Human Resources

• How are the SPC and AF committees tied together?
• Are you discovering anything new in these meetings?
• How are the committees being put together?
• Has the tenure system been discussed?
• What about the mix between tenure and non-tenure?
• How are we going to go about increasing team teaching?
• What about expanding the role of international scholars visiting campus?
• What about offering classes specifically for those with double majors?
• What about offering more classes at night?
• How are the two processes going to make sure that whoever is going to be affected by the plan is actually heard?
• Need to pay attention to accessible technology.
• Maybe we need to do more with respect to hiring our own students (for faculty).

7. Sociology

• Need to do more with the graduate student population in terms of connecting them across disciplines.
• We might think about focus groups in order to reach out to those outside the university.

8. Academic Advising

• Advisors are over-worked and burdened with too many students. They are also under-paid.
• Are there any students on the committee?
• Advisors usually have to be consulted by students whenever anything inter-disciplinary is tried.
• Staff goals and concerns don’t seem to be very well connected to college goals.
• What about implementation? How will it happen?
• Is this process required by the higher learning commission?
• What projects have come up with interdisciplinary teaching?
• Transportation and childcare are growing concerns.
• Advising can be very helpful in advising since it sees the whole process or all aspects of a student’s career.
• What about the open option problem?
• How do we make sure compassion really filters down?
• What are we doing about the growing need for disability resources (Minnesota confronted this problem).

9. ENVS

• How are we going to get the vision statement down to 4-5 areas?
• What about changes in promotion and tenure?
• How will the Regents have an impact on all of this?
• How are we reaching out to Colorado citizens (voters)?
• ASU transformed their campus in interesting ways. We should look at what they’ve done.
• Why is this process happening now?
• How will white papers be used?

10. Museum Administration

• How to put the A back in Stem (Steam).
• The Museum faculty and staff have many student contact hours and could serve as a nice model for interdisciplinary teaching. Unfortunately, they are not recognized for all they do in this area.
• There are lots of barriers for non-TTT faculty in getting credit and being eligible for internal resources.
• Digital Assett management is something that should be considered more seriously.
• Too much emphasis on innovation and entrepreneurship in what they’ve heard in visioning process.
• In general the museums have a lot to offer yet there’s been a disconnect between what they do and what faculty in the department know. The staff needs to be seen much more as a resource.

One area of concern during the entire process has been the rumors regarding the reorganization of the college. Those discussions will not happen in the Academic Futures process this year but they can happen in the A&S process. The charge of this committee is to consider any and all issues and concerns that exist within A&S. The SPC wants to deal directly with this issue and is currently developing ideas on how to devote consideration to the idea. Until now, the SPC’s focus has been on who we are and where we want to be in 10 years. Discussions on how to get there will follow. This is where we need to have the conversation regarding possible organizational changes to the college.