

Strategic Planning Committee
Minutes
September 11, 2008

Attending: Adams, Al-Kaisy, Eagleson, Fastnow, Mashaw, Maxwell, Rimpau, Schmidt, Wood.

1. Introductions of new and continuing committee members.
2. Rimpau presented a brief environmental scan highlighting the continuing decline in the numbers of Montana high school graduates, a positive but weakening State budget, reduced research expenditures, small increases in student retention, continued increases in nonresident enrollment, and an increase in graduate enrollment.
3. The committee discussed the Five-year vision document and the annual process for updating the components of the vision. For the past several years, the SPC process has involved dividing up the elements of the vision such that individual committee members are responsible for checking with various campus “experts” to validate the figures used in the vision. We will continue that process at the next meeting.
4. Following on the discussion of item #3, the committee discussed the form of the Five-year vision document. It is clearly an internal document. Everything in the document is public information but the format is not particularly user friendly for a casual observer. Last year, with encouragement from MSU’s Foundation, Cathy Conover’s office developed a more attractive version that focused on highlights of the Five-year vision. This briefer version was centered on those parts of the vision that someone who isn’t intimately familiar with the University might be interested in. The committee decided to continue this discussion of “format” (and how that might impact our process) at future meetings.
5. Chris Fastnow presented the committee with handouts that show our process toward the goals articulated in the various annual iterations of the Five-year vision document. These reports are available on the web.
<http://www.montana.edu/vision/prioryears/index.html>
6. A couple of members noted it was difficult to find the committee and/or the strategic planning pages on the website. Chris and Jim will look into improving search results.