Planning Council
Open Forum
August 17, 2011

Opening Remarks – Dr. Jim Rimpau

Discussion

Mission Statement
Missing 'sustainable'. This portion is covered in the core themes. Trying to keep the mission statement short and simple.

Core Themes – Ron Larsen

Core #1
Split out objectives 2 & 3 or simplify the language. As it stands there are many variables to try to measure.

  Suggested change to two:
  ‘Our graduates will be ready to become active thinkers.’
    - The rest would be strategies.
    - Ethical, critically thinking.

Can we define terms in footnotes? Yes (Need to define ‘cultural attunement’.)

Consensus: simplify.

Graduates vs. Students:

  Graduates is a narrow view of students.
    - Tense makes a difference.
    - The whole journey needs to be represented.
      o The group liked the term ‘journey’.
    - How do we measure?

Suggested:
‘Increase retention & graduation rates’ – does this go in Core #5?

Modifiers vs. nouns? Undecided on which would be better.

Core #2
Missing the impact piece. (indicator?) How much this matters to people (creating knowledge and art).
Need those attention grabbers like the MSU homepage stories. The exciting stuff.

Language may exclude groups.

Suggested:
‘MSU creates…’ May be addressed in other core themes.
Peer-review validates

Core #3
Missing the service component
How does MSU serve communities?

Place with facilities people can use to accomplish their goals, excellence, programs. Extension offices need to be included/added. Two-way process – input/output, give and take. Research that affects communities. Solve community problems. In relation to where we are – as places of collaboration. We are in every county. Scope: connects – serves What is the type of end objective? We serve all people.

Suggested:
Communities and external stakeholders benefit from collaborations and partnerships with MSU.

‘qualified’ – exclusive word.
- Trying to include communities.
- Sounds more like traditional students
- Better under ‘Educating Students’
- We are talking about people/community.
- Offer a wide variety of educational programs for all stakeholders.

There are no examples of how communities are served.

Relevance –
- We find important what the state of Montana finds important.
- Something that says we are paying attention to our surroundings.

More of a goal rather than a directive – verb vs. noun. Objective is the destination.

Missing best, great, and outstanding... move away from the neutral. MSU is on the rise – excellence.

If each core is to be standalone there should be an impact component included for each one.

Core # 4
Objective 1
Each student will have the opportunity...
- Change to graduates rather than students?
- Integrate across campus.
- Integrate/modify what’s already being done. (Core 2.0, Capstone)
- Utilize Freshman Seminar.
- The statement should stay bold

All three sections should benefit from each other: learning, discovery and engagement.

The objectives should serve the theme – all the integration items were consolidated and put into their own core theme. This is why there seems to be some repetition as all of these items relate to the other core themes.
These will direct/guide funding decisions.

Engagement is in all four.

Core # 5

Be an example to the state and others in our community.

Not just about energy.

Good stewardship of resources. The group really liked the term ‘stewardship’.

Supporting faculty and staff – help to sustain our faculty and staff.

Sustain MSU
   - Faculty and staff help to achieve sustainability

Tie-in to research and discovery – discoveries that will help make the world a better place.

Broaden to mean all resources.

Add ‘responsibility’.

How do you express the two angles of sustainability?
   - Under Ensure Sustainability there should be two classes of sustainability that are clarified.
   - Show the state and public that we are doing well with the resources they have given us.

Institutional longevity.

Stewardship for the institution and the world.

Add a Sub-Heading
   - Sustain the institution.

Human capital/resource.

Some how use the word ‘time’. (Using our time wisely)

Stewardship is important and resonates with MT.