Strategic Planning Committee Minutes  
Friday, October 7, 2011

I. Introductions

II. Discussion with President Cruzado

Welcome
Plan should be completed during the Spring 2012 Semester. An earlier completion is better – to impact our budgeting process.

Montana State University includes:

1. Four Campuses
2. Seven Ag Centers
3. Extension Offices in 56 counties.

Strategic plan needs to radiate out to the whole state. Each MSU campus will have its own plan and eventually, they should be highly coordinated. We are Montana’s University.

Values to emphasize in this process are:

1. Transparency
2. Enhanced participation

This is an extension of work began by the MSU Planning Council

1. We have created the Strategic Planning Committee to help draft the strategic plan for the Bozeman campus.
2. Your voice is needed to help raise the periscope and get a broader view of MSU.
3. Students should be placed at the center.
4. What is the type of university you see in five or ten years from now?

5. Time commitment to meet the spring deadline.
   a. Homework between meetings to keep things moving.

Why is a strategic plan important?
1. To give focus to the decision making process.
2. Help to make difficult decisions: does a project/proposal align with the strategic plan.

We want to connect our planning and our budgeting in a virtuous cycle.

Virtuous Cycle
- Planning Council
  o Creates/updates the strategic plan.
  o Goals (5 or 6)
    ▪ The goals should be measurable.
- Budget Council
  o Allocates funds based on strategic plan.
- Assessment
  o Measure progress of programs funded,
    ▪ Decide if it should continue to be funded or if the funding should be increased/decreased.
  o Adjust strategic plan when needed.

A sense of discipline should be built regarding the strategic plan. A favorite concept from Jim Collins’ Good to Great is the importance of having disciplined people, disciplined thought, and disciplined action.

Flow is interrupted when we get too comfortable. It is good to stretch and reach beyond our own limitations.

III. Discussion of Core Themes and Objectives

We will need to discuss and answer a number of questions.
Question: How do the 5 or 6 goals mesh with the core themes and the 24 objectives that have already been identified?
Question: Increasing in terms of capacity of our public university something like 30%... is that part of this process, is it driving us?
- Access, this is a part of the Land-Grant Mission.

Question: How will these goals be tangible or measurable?
- Goals will have indicators that will be measurable.

Some of the objectives in the core themes document could be used as goals for the strategic plan. The committee should look at the objectives and pull out those they think would make good goals for the strategic plan. As a note, some of the objectives may be repeated in multiple core themes.

The strategic plan should be traceable from the BOR plan all the way down to the department/center level of each institution.

There is conversation nationwide regarding performance based funding and this is why it is important that the strategic plans of all the areas are interconnected.

IV. Discussion of next steps
P. Cruzado handed out a model of a strategic planning process. Some of the items have been completed. The group was asked to review the handout and begin brainstorming ideas.

V. Other business

Communication is key; University Communications will help to make sure the strategic plan is publicized.

Create a list of peer institutions to help with measuring current performance.

A calendar of proposed events will be added to the binder so the committee can approve.

Documents for the committee to review:
Mission/Core Themes (Accreditation Document Excerpt)
Core Theme Objectives
MUS Strategic Plan
Current MSU Strategic Plan

Next SPC meeting: 3:00 – 5:00 PM Thursday, October 20, 2011 (Animal Bioscience Room 138)