

3/27/19 SLC Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance: Uchenna Baker, Mike Benveniste, Jackie Dierdorff, Eli Gandour-Rood, Zaixin Hong, Alan Krause, Jess Smith, Mike Valentine, Adrian Villicana, Nila Wiese

Announcements and Agenda:

- 1. Minutes from previous meeting.** Minutes have not yet been circulated, thus the group did not approve the minutes from the previous meeting.
- 2. Agenda for current meeting.** The group was provided with the “Puget Sound Division of Student Affairs Strategic Plan: A New Direction for Student Affairs” on 2/25/19 and was asked to look over the document to provide feedback. Providing and discussing feedback on this document was the primary objective of this meeting.

Introduction to and Feedback on the Student Affairs Strategic Plan:

- a. Background on the document.** Uchenna provided an overview of the document. This document is the first draft of the new strategic plan for student affairs in which the division has not yet looked it over. Direct reports to Uchenna are to look over the document on Thursday, 2/28/19 and offer feedback.

The new strategic plan was sparked, in part, by an exercise in which the division shared insights and suggestions of their own experiences within student affairs as well as the satisfaction survey that was disseminated last semester. Using both sources of information, the division generated a plan that details indicated areas of growth. Thus far, the document consists of points the division wishes to emphasize rather than concrete ways to tackle each area. However, each unit within the division will soon come up with strategies to accomplish the objectives.

b. Feedback from SLC members.

- i.** Include a more explicit connection as to how academic / intellectual aspects of the college experience fit with the goals of the strategic plan. While these aspects may be inherently and implicitly connected to the objectives of the strategic plan, a more explicit emphasis may be helpful.
 1. Similarly, it was suggested to make more explicit in the strategic plan the connections between academic affairs and student affairs. They are inherently connected, especially in a small liberal arts environment, but more can be done to make that explicit in the plan.
 2. To aid in making these connections more explicit, some potential language was offered: part of a sense of belonging (see below, too) within a “liberal arts environment is to be engaged in academic *and* social activities; therefore, creating a rich, engaged, intellectual community that advocates debate and an exchange of ideas”
- ii.** May be beneficial to include collaboration with faculty and staff in the strategic plan. For example, goals to keep faculty and staff more engaged as well as ideas for keeping visible student affairs to faculty and staff.
 1. Perhaps this can be added to the “Intra/Inter Personal Development” or “Sense of Belonging” themes in the plan.

- iii. Re: sense of belonging, the tone of the strategic plan suggests a “within UPS focus”, such that “sense of belonging” is limited to the campus community. However, it may be beneficial to make contact with belonging to the local community; a sense of belonging to the campus *and* Tacoma community.
 - 1. The RISE program does address the above comment; however, more connections with the local community may be needed.
 - 2. In addition to the previous point, there are resources for students living off campus and connecting to the campus. A more explicit description of these resources within the strategic plan may help show in various ways how student affairs is committed to creating an atmosphere of camaraderie and community.
 - 3. It may be beneficial to have each unit within the division to identify various community organizations or groups in which they actively are or wish to be partnered.
 - iv. The library, itself, as well as resources associated with the library can be highlighted in the strategic plan in the various themes. For example, the library is a critical part of this institution and is frequented by students for academic and nonacademic activities. The library is and can continue to be a resource to build community, belonging, and can partner with many academic and social affairs units.
 - v. Add the Center for Oral Communication as an aspirational connection with the student affairs division.
- c. **Next steps and report to Senate.** The group discussed how SLC can best support the further development of the strategic plan with more specific charges. Yet, while this committee does not necessarily conclude each semester or year with a concrete product, it is helpful to remember that SLC is meant to be advisory; to offer feedback and guidance when needed.

One concrete charge for the group each year is to have all members receive training to best perform as a liaison when called upon. The group can identify what type(s) of training we may need for the various potential liaison positions. Gathering more information as to what types of liaison positions are typical, how many liaisons are needed for each type of position, and what other committees may typically request a liaison. This can also help make SLC more visible.

As student affairs progresses on the strategic plan and developing ways to implement changes, SLC will receive more concrete charges. In addition, SLC can more frequently reach out to ASUPS to offer collaboration given the members of ASUPS change often.

Members of SLC were encouraged to continue to think about potential suggests for the plan as well as any insight or suggestions that student affairs can address. Any ideas or suggestions would ideally be emailed to Uchenna or Mike by 8 APR.

Meeting concluded at 1:41pm.
Submitted by Adrian Villicana