



Opportunities & Challenges Committee
February 18, 2022
Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2pm by Dr. Brian Payne. Present were Dr. Melva Grant, Dr. Tancy Vandecar-Burdin, Dr. Helen Crompton, Professor Vicki Carnegie, Ms. Nadine Faulcon-Johnson, Mr. David Shirley, Mr. Harry Smithson, Dr. Stuart Henderson, Ms. Samantha Palmucci, Ms. Annamarie Ginder, Dr. John Nunnery, Ms. Rachel Asare, Professor Jessica Whitehead, Dr. Krzysztof Rechowicz, Dr. Anil Nair, Mr. Deondre Wise, Dr. Khan Iftekharruddin, Mr. Rob Wells and Mr. John Hasher.

Dr. Payne shared the agenda with the group and apologized for not having last week's minutes posted for approval. He introduced Mr. David Shirley, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment. Mr. Shirley will work with SACSCOC and discussed the 2014-2019 strategic plan. He reviewed the five goals – enhance academic and research excellence, support student success, enrich the quality of university life, engage with the greater community, promote an entrepreneurial culture. Mr. Wells asked if what was shared on screen with the committee was the meat of the assessment of the original of the prior plan or if they were items that were accomplished. Mr. Shirley confirmed that what he presented were accomplished.

Dr. Payne asked if there is an opportunity to build assessment into the strategic plan so it's not an afterthought and what might that look like? Mr. Shirley responded that his thought is to integrate assessment by first identifying a committee of sorts that could help support or review that's ongoing that doesn't look at just the successes but perhaps what are challenges along the way.

Dr. Payne said he believes this is something this group could be into our narrative. We don't say how to do it, but I think we could stress the opportunity. He also asked Mr. Shirley to write up a section about how we build assessment into the future strategic plan by March 10.

The infrastructure subgroup was asked to give an update on their work. Mr. Hasher, director of operations and maintenance, spoke for the subgroup. He shared the subgroups ideas in a bit different manner using subject area, issues, opportunities, and challenges. After a great presentation and discussion of infrastructure, Mr. Hasher asked if there are conversations going on with the higher education centers. He assured the group there are and they are having conversations about do we take a building down or do we put it up...there are things in the background that are going to play like flood level and sea level rise and the 500-year flood plains and the state's requirements of what can and can't be built which really starts handcuffing us on campus. And we are one of the few in the state that really is going to run into a huge issue in the next five to 10 years with new construction because we run out of room.



Dr. Nair asked if there was any investment in digitization of campus so maybe everything could be put in an App – whether you would need a key, parking, guest parking, and so on? Mr. Hasher said they are looking at one piece of that - electronic access - but currently it costs too much. Dr. Grant asked about GPS technologies like with navigation where if you have an appointment on campus then when you hit campus your phone is pinging them and they know you're there and they can tell you to go this way or that way. Mr. Hasher said there's two different streams on that - one is getting to campus, and you want to go to Constant room 113. The map should not take you to Constant 113 because you can't park your car in Constant Hall, so that part of GPS needs to take you to the nearest garage. The way finding on campus is similar like when I brought up is between signage and your phone. George McLeod and his group is toying around a bit with that on campus and that is something that probably you'll see in the next few years.

Dr. Bowles asked about the maintenance side of things and if there are any kind of transformational things like condition-based maintenance, where you have sensors on some of your bigger machinery where you're doing proactive maintenance instead of waiting until something breaks down? Mr. Hasher stated we have a company called Siemens, a multinational company, we have their control system across campus, and we monitor a lot of pieces of equipment and a lot of set points.

Dr. Payne then turned the meeting over to the research subgroup. Dr. Crompton mentioned the subgroup met this morning and decided to do something a little different. There's a lot of expertise as well in research in the group that we don't have in our subgroup. What we would like to do is put up each topic and have everyone go to the link I provide and write what they think should be on our list just literally for two minutes. After each topic I will switch to my screen to show you what we have.

Then we can go from there. You can have a quick look on that and then we can go to the next topic. This will be helpful for our group because we've got a lot but there's probably things that we're missing. And please put your names before your comments. After brief discussion, Dr. Crompton continued to demographic and diversity and asked the full committee for their written comments.

This process was continued for each topic.

Dr. Compton said all comments will be reviewed and integrated into what their subgroup has.

Dr Payne thanked Dr. Crompton and the research subgroup. He proceeded to give a quick overview of what the narrative final report might look like, knowing that again we go back to our assumptions.



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Next Friday we will hear from the finance subgroup and the student success subgroup and get updates from the others and then we'll keep plowing ahead. I hope all of you have a great weekend. The meeting was adjourned at 3:21pm.