Strategic Planning Processes

Three days ago I sent an e-mail to all deans, sharing with them materials for this year's Strategic Planning work. They received a comprehensive FAQ sheet, as well as two templates (an EZ form and a slightly longer, more directive LEZ form) as well as sample reports from two fictional departments, one using the EZ and the other the LEZ form. I encouraged deans to share these materials with chairs, directors, and others in their colleges who will participate in planning processes these semester. Our hope in AA is that deans will orchestrate meetings with unit plan writers to engage in college-wide discussions of draft plans and initiatives well before the due date of the plans to AA on May 15, 2019.

Everyone is invited to view these materials on the Provost's page, either under the Colleges' tab or under the Resources for Deans and Department Chairs' tab. My recommendation: read the FAQ before moving to other materials.

https://weber.edu/academicaffairs/annual-college-reports.html

OR
https://www.weber.edu/academicaffairs/forms-guidelines.html (Look under “S” for Strategic Plans)

I'm also really pleased to announce that The Report Gallery is up and running. What is the Report Gallery? It’s essentially a one-stop shop for all data needed by report writers (or anyone interested in how the numbers fall out at WSU). The Report Gallery can be accessed easily through the eWeber portal---> Report Gallery. For questions or more information about the Gallery, please contact Liz Hill in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at ext. 7159 or ehill@weber.edu

I send special thanks to all who helped shape the documents we will use this year, as well as those who helped stand up the Report Gallery. We are making tremendous progress in using data to inform our decision-making processes.

Is WSU going to offer a PhD?

A participant in a recent Arts & Humanities College retreat asked if it was true that WSU will soon be offering a PhD in Nursing. The response: not quite true. The Dumke College has prepared a proposal for a professional doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP). The DNP, like a doctorate in Pharmacology, is not a research degree. Instead, it designates practitioners as having achieved the highest level of training in their fields of practice. Within the area of Nursing, accrediting agencies are moving away from accepting the Masters of Science in Nursing Practice (MSNP) as a terminal degree; for WSU to maintain its position as the institution of choice for Nurse Practitioners, we need to enhance our offerings with a DNP. Doing so will not change our Carnegie classification or our mission.
We have submitted the DNP proposal to USHE, where it will be reviewed by peer institutions as well as by the Board of Regents, and then returned to our own Board of Trustees for consideration.

**Update on Trustees’ Meetings**

Like all USHE institutions, WSU is guided not only by faculty, staff, students and administrators, but also by a Board of Trustees. We have ten trustees, eight appointed by the Governor, plus the President of the WSU Alumni Association and the President of WSUSA. Generally, the trustees meet seven times a year. This past year, at the request of a majority of Trustees, Interim President Norm Tarbox arranged an additional meeting in August for a one-day “Trustee Training Retreat.”

Prior to a full board meeting, two sub-committees meet to take action on such items as the Retirement Investment Policy, Animals on Campus, and Quarterly Athletic Report (from January’s Business Subcommittee agenda), several department name changes, new degrees and certificates, early retirement requests, and sabbatical requests (from January’s Personnel & Academic Policy Subcommittee agenda). All of these items come to the full board for approval. Additionally, the full board generally enjoys presentations from one of the deans about initiatives in his/her college, from a faculty member about interesting and noteworthy work, from the WSUSA about student events on campus, and from WSU’s President. As needed, trustees may move into a closed session following the regular meeting if there are issues defined by Utah Code 52-4-205 that must be discussed.

Current Board Chair Mr. Nolan Karras has challenged board members to learn as much as they possibly can about the university. Each board member has assumed responsibility for getting to know at least one college in depth. As Provost, I am impressed by the commitment of our trustees to WSU’s success. They take their oversight responsibilities seriously. Prior to board meeting they read novel-length agenda packets and then, during meetings, engage in serious and thoughtful discussion of action items. We are fortunate to have these conscientious and caring individuals as our board.