**Strategic Planning Steering Committee Meeting**

November 16, 2015

Atkinson 202

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee held its initial meeting on Monday, November 16, in Atkinson 202. Present were Andy Lewter, Dale Young, Jan Clark, Kyle Cullars, Bob Orr, Juawn Jackson, Bill Doerr, Susan Allen, and Mark Pelton. An incorrect email address in the meeting invitation distribution prevented Sandy Gangstead from attending.

The committee discussed several topics including the need for a concise mission statement for the university, possibly as brief as one sentence.

The committee discussed the timeline for the planning process. The subcommittees will have to submit their reports by approximately March 4 in order for the Steering Committee to produce a draft strategic plan by April 14. This timeline will facilitate review and possible endorsement of the strategic plan by University Senate at its culminating meeting on April 22. Committee members asked Mark Pelton to inquire of President Dorman about his plan for the period after the Senate reviews the plan in April. Does he plan to vet the plan across campus in the summer and fall with final adoption in early fall? (Note: Mark followed up with the President who said that, if the Steering Committee is confident of the draft, then having it reviewed and endorsed by the Senate at the April 22 meeting would be ideal, with continued review continuing forward. Given this, it appears that we have a little flexibility in our timeline. Our target for the initial draft should be prior to the April 22 Senate meeting, with the final delivery date—by which time the plan will have been completed, reviewed, communicated widely, and approved—should be the end of September 2016, in time for consideration in the mid-to-late October, 2016 university budget hearings.)

The group discussed developing charges for each of the subcommittees. It was noted that the charges could be posed in the form of questions. For example, the Student Quality and University Distinction Committee could be asked to consider questions such as: How can Georgia College recruit, retain, and graduate an outstanding, diverse student body that meets the expectations for a highly selective university? How can the university assist its graduates in obtaining recognitions such as accolades, scholarships, and national awards? Mark offered to develop draft charges as a starting point for discussion.

It was noted that the process should be transparent and inclusive, and well communicated to the campus.