**Strategic Planning Steering Committee Meeting**

March 10, 2016

Atkinson 202

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee met in Atkinson 202 on Thursday, March 10, 2016. In attendance were Mark Pelton, Veronica Womack, Dale Young, Juawn Jackson, Susan Allen, Bill Doerr, Sandy Gangstead, Chris Ferland, Andy Lewter, Bob Orr, and Omar Odeh. Jan Clark was not present. Danielle Hewette attended the meeting to take notes.

Dale Young started the meeting with a discussion of upcoming meetings. It was decided to cancel the meeting the week of spring break and add meetings on March 29th, April 5th, and April 12th. (These meetings will be held in Atkinson 202 from 1-3 p.m.) Cancelling the meeting during spring break week will give steering committee members time to review the 13 subcommittee reports they will receive by email from Mark early in the week of March 14. Once the steering committee members have the opportunity to review the subcommittee reports, the reports will be placed on the strategic planning website and announced to the campus community. The target date to post the subcommittee reports online is March 28.

Dale then stated that the goal of the meeting was to review the document containing the mission, vision, and values which had been emailed to the steering committee the week prior. Sandy presented a modified list of values for discussion. Some questioned whether the “three R’s” could adequately capture all of the university’s key values. Sandy proposed “Academic Excellence: Pride in teaching, learning, and working together” as a 4th main value that might not fit into the “three R’s.” Mark suggested that “creating” be added to that statement to reflect research and artistic endeavors.

The mission statement was the next topic of discussion. After much conversation, the mission statement began to take shape: “Georgia College is Georgia’s designated public liberal arts university.” There was additional discussion on adding “only” prior to “designated public liberal arts university” to further communicate the university’s distinctive position within the USG.

The remaining discussion revolved around the paragraphs which follow the current mission statement. Many suggestions were made regarding the wording, sentence structure, format, etc. Mark and Juawn were each asked to take paragraphs to reword and restructure. Another suggestion was to combine three of the paragraphs which seemed a bit redundant. Dale asked Bill Doerr to work on combining those three paragraphs into one paragraph.

As the meeting came to an end, Dale asked to have any suggestions or text changes sent to him early during the week of March 14. He asked Mark to email the steering committee copies of the sub-committee reports to review during spring break. The meeting was then adjourned.

The next meeting of the steering committee is scheduled for March 29, 2016 at 1 p.m. in Atkinson 202.