**Strategic Planning Steering Committee Meeting**

July 26, 2016

Atkinson 202

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee met in Atkinson 202 on Tuesday, July 26, 2016. In attendance were Mark Pelton, Sandy Gangstead, Dale Young, Bill Doerr, Laura Ahrens, Andy Lewter, Chris Ferland, Omar Odeh, and Veronica Womack. Bob Orr, Ken McGill, Susan Allen, and Jan Clark were not present. Linda Bradley, who has just been added to the committee as an Education faculty representative, could not attend due to a prior commitment.

Mark and Dale reported on their Monday, July 25 presentation of the draft goals and initiatives to the President, Provost, and Cabinet. The goals and objectives were well received, with only a suggestion made to include career services or advising. The Steering Committee discussed this at length before changing the final Goal 1 initiative to read “Enhance academic and career advising and other university services to fully support student success and satisfaction.”

The committee added some clarifying wording to the Complete College Georgia initiative in Goal 1 based on input from Chris Ferland, and expanded “global learning” in the list of transformative experiences to “diversity and global learning” at Veronica Womack’s suggestion. It was also decided to spell out the full name of LEAP in the final initiative of Goal 2 based on input from a strategic planning subcommittee.

Dale and Mark discussed the upcoming steps which included sending the draft goals and initiatives to ECUS and with a request that the draft be assigned to RPIPC, and presenting the draft at the August 11 University Senate retreat and the August 9 faculty welcome breakfast.

Dale discussed the initial rough draft outline of the strategic planning report which he and Mark are developing. Dale and Mark will work to polish the first draft of the report text and circulate it to the Steering Committee for review prior to the next meeting on Tuesday, August 2, at 1 p.m.

Mark reported to the committee that President Dorman had reviewed the latest draft and was pleased with the committee’s progress toward developing a plan that reflects where GC is as a campus. However, the President did suggest a greater emphasis on the concepts of student and faculty success. The committee made a wording change in Goal 1 to better highlight student success, which is now clearly the object of two Goal 1 initiatives. The committee reviewed Goal 5, which focuses on the recruitment, retention, and success of an exemplary and diverse faculty and staff, and felt that faculty success was highlighted sufficiently.

At the previous meeting, Laura had questioned why the initiative related to the liberal arts general education program had been omitted from the Goal 2 revision submitted by Jan and Ken. Jan and Ken came prepared to discuss this and presented a draft of a new initiative to correct this omission. After some discussion and a bit of wordsmithing, the committee incorporated a new initiative to “redesign the liberal arts curricula to best reflect the distinction of a public liberal arts institution.” The bullet under that initiative is to “support integration of LEAP outcomes into the general education and degree program curricula.” Two other initiatives under Goal 2 were streamlined based on edits suggested by Dale.

The words “and productive” were eliminated from the second initiative under Goal 5.

The committee revisited the review process for the draft goals and objectives. The draft will be presented to University Senate at its August 9 retreat, with the assumption that ECUS will assign the draft to RPIPC given its role in reviewing and providing advice on strategic planning. It was decided that the draft should be sent to ECUS by July 26th—after strategic planning subcommittee and Cabinet input have been received and incorporated—with a request that the draft be assigned to RPIPC for review. Jan felt sure that RPIPC will review the draft and provide input by September 2, so the deadline for Senate input was modified accordingly.

Mark noted that he intended to send the draft goals and initiatives to the 13 strategic planning subcommittees on Wednesday, July 13, and received suggestions from the Steering Committee for important points to communicate in the email to the subcommittee chairs.

Mark and Dale agreed to develop an outline for the narrative portion of the written plan for review and input by the entire steering committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26 from 1-3 p.m. in Atkinson 202.