

**Strategic Planning Committee Meeting  
September 28, 2016  
TJ Majors 114 and CATS Conference Room**

**Members present:** Dan Hanson, Jason Hogue, Greg Seay, Kyle Ryan, Adam Neveau, Robert Ingram, Brandy Van Der Kamp, Ted Harshbarger, Zak Ruei, Trey Nelson, Kristin Buscher, Emily Volker, Tammie Hart, Paul Hinrichs, Mike Gerdes, Todd Simpson, Gene Beardslee, Joyce Douglas, Christy Hutchison, Kelli Gardner, Kristi Nies

**Also present:** Amy Mincer

**Open Session:**

The Committee met in open session in TJ Majors with other campus attendees. Dr. Tim Borchers, VPAA, distributed a feedback form asking all to complete it following the presentation to identify assumptions that will help drive the strategic planning process. He then presented many slides with external demographic information, including expected population growth and many other statistics. Dr. Borchers also discussed high-impact practices that have been identified to help students be successful, stressing the necessity to choose the RIGHT high-impact practices for our students. He asked for comments following the presentation. Some of the feedback included:

- ❖ Surprised that retirement communities were not higher on the increase than the data showed.
- ❖ Concern over increasing costs of attending PSC. Compared to UNL, costs at PSC are growing closer to UNL. This could become prohibitive.
- ❖ There is a push to have students complete college in four years (which is less expensive) by defining “full-time” as 15 credits/semester.
- ❖ Question about students coming to college “needier than ever” in the coming years. What percentage of them will need to have employment while taking classes?

**Meeting in CATS Conference:**

The committee moved to CATS Conference Room to proceed with meeting agenda. Dr. Hanson thanked Dr. Borchers for his presentation in TJ Majors.

**\*Review of minutes from last meeting – no changes.**

**\*Process Update –** Dr. Hanson noted that survey results from employees are in. Christy Hutchison, Ted Harshbarger and Brandy Van Der Kamp all offered to review the results and draw some conclusions that will be sent to the Strategic Planning Committee. He also noted that Kevin Blobaum is drafting another survey that will be sent out soon.

**\*Discussion – External Data Observations –** Dr. Borchers reported that many good assumptions were identified by those who completed the feedback form at the TJ Majors presentation. Dr. Hanson asked all to complete this form and return to Dr. Borchers. Observations from the presentation by committee members included the following:

- ❖ Dual enrollment classes offered by PSC present good opportunities to get those students to enroll at Peru.
- ❖ We have some good opportunities to gain the interest of NE City students (i.e., Lourdes is playing a football game at PSC in a few weeks).
- ❖ There was a request to see a list of the majors offered here in relationship to a list of the growing job sectors. An additional comment pointed out that sometimes the top growing job sectors don't actually offer the most number of jobs.
- ❖ The growing population in our state's urban areas validates our spending money to attract students from those areas.
- ❖ A portion of the growth in Lincoln is due to growing number of international people groups.
- ❖ The maximum Pell grant amount has flat-lined for now, causing students to need other sources from which to pay for increasing costs of college.
- ❖ Half of our students come from families that make less than \$50,000, which is a large reason that retention rates are challenged.
- ❖ Question about what else we can do to attract more non-traditional students?
- ❖ Independent colleges are growing faster than public, despite their higher costs. Also, students are graduating from these institutions with not much more student loan debt than those graduating from public/lower cost institutions. Why is this so? (Some factors: family income, finishing in four years)
- ❖ We limit students on probation to 14 credits per semester but are looking at changing that so students can take 15 credits and graduate in four years. Suggestion that students should also use summer classes to "catch up" on credits.
- ❖ How many students may have to delay their graduation due to limited course offerings? Dr. Borchers offered to look at the data to see if there is an effect.

**\*Planning for October 6 & 7 SOAR sessions –**

- ❖ Dr. Hanson asked all to review their handout with the four questions listed and explained that they were vetted with Dr. Nancy Myers who will be leading the SOAR analysis sessions.
- ❖ He also reviewed how the SOAR sessions will take place and referred all to the "Facilitator Notes" document that was distributed today.
- ❖ Regarding advance communication, a "save-the-date" message has been sent to the campus community with more information to follow about the questions and process and also about Dr. Nancy Myers. Dr. Hanson asked for suggestions on how to get a representative sample of the organization at each of the two sessions. There were several ideas as follows: 1) Have supervisors encourage their staff to attend so they know they can take two hours from their job to participate; 2) SPC members should encourage colleagues to attend; 3) Spread the word from the VPAA and Deans to encourage all faculty to attend; 4) Students should be encouraged to participate through coaches, student group leaders, student council, the new student app, and even through a hand-given invitation that Jason could print for distribution.

**\*Next Meeting Date – October 19, 2016, 3:30-5:00pm in CATS Conference Room.**