

True North Initiative Task Force Meeting

March 6, 2019
Becht Hall, Rm. 332
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Josh Domitrovich, Merrilyn Dunlap, Jen Dutkiewicz, Ray Feroz, Lynne Fleisher, Deb Kelly (via conference call), Terry Latour, Jen Mills, Gwen Price, Sam Puleio, Adam Roberts, Matt Shaffer, Chad Thomas, Tammy Varsek. Tree Zuzzio (via zoom).

Absent: Daniel Clark, Anita Lahr, Chad Smith, Brad Wagner.

Dr. Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The working groups provided an update on their group work.

Working Group Updates

Matt Shaffer reported on the **Campus Climate and Diversity** working group. They will be reviewing the results of the focus groups and surveys at their next meeting. They have common themes reoccurring – diversity and communication.

Ray Feroz reported for the **Academic Programming** working group. They did an analysis of their weaknesses and opportunities and at the next meeting they will develop a priority list. They are looking into the structure of academic programs, program packages, and possibly the development of Special Education and moving Education into its own college. These recommendations may help to grow our enrollment and we need to increase enrollment. This group has that goal in mind.

They discussed using Venango campus as a first step or career ladder with associate degrees or technology degrees and programs involving the oil and gas industry, human services, addictions, just to name a few ideas. His working group will be meeting with Provost Gent to get her recommendations before finalizing their report.

Sam Puleio reported on the **Affordability and Finances** working group. The group dived into student fees that are assessed. They met with the scholarship team to try to understand that model, how it has changed, the sources of funds, and methodology of the funds. Their goal is to provide insights about affordability and finances to the President.

Tammy Varsek want to more deeply investigate the fee assessed Venango students. She explained the STEM-H fees that were implemented a few years ago. These fees are to help cover the high-cost, high-demand courses associated with labs and small class sizes for health sciences and clinical courses. Puleio noted that the student representative in his working group actually questioned these fees and indicated students do not know where the money is being used. If it is for labs, students are expecting a high-tech lab and are not getting that type of facility. It is a matter of perception and value for the money.

Their recommendations will look at what revenues are received and where the money is being allocated.

Josh Domitrovich reported on the **Recruitment and Retention** working group. His group is also focusing on student perceptions and value. They identified some factors influencing student decision making when selecting a college: communication, advising, affordability, extracurricular activities, academic programs, the recruitment model, accountability, and quality across the board.

They have identified that Clarion University needs to find its niche. Something we want our institution to be known for.

They believe that we need to further enhance the Inquiry Seminars, with career readiness modules and high impact practices.

Their final report will include opportunities that balance out the challenges, along with the recommendations of their group. They expect to recommend the formation of a Student Success Division. Clarion should be proactive, not reactive.

Domitrovich stated that this group broke out into three subgroups and each are preparing a report that will be integrated into the working group's final report and recommendations.

Domitrovich recommended having each working group meet with the President to provide an overview of their recommendations. Terry Latour stated they he and Adam Roberts may be presenting the final report to PEC and he will investigate scheduling a time for each working group to meet with the President.

Gwen Price reported on the **Venango** working group. Their challenges were how to make Venango cost affective using the limited resources we have now. There needs to be financial reporting capabilities that identify Venango Campus costs separate from Clarion Campus costs.

Their recommendations will focus on a business plan for academic programming and an administrative structure. They believe a full-time director is needed for the campus. This group will meet again next week to finalize their decisions and report.

Terry Latour reminded each working group their final reports are due by March 15.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesdays: March 20, 27, 8 a.m., Conference Room 332 Becht Hall.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.