

True North Initiative Task Force Meeting

February 20, 2019

Becht Hall, Rm. 332

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Daniel Clark, Josh Domitrovich, Merrilyn Dunlap, Ray Feroz, Lynne Fleisher, Deb Kelly, Anita Lahr, Terry Latour, Jen Mills, Sam Puleio, Adam Roberts, Matt Shaffer, Chad Smith, Chad Thomas, Tammy Varsek, Tree Zuzzio.

Absent: Jen Dutkiewicz, Gwen Price, Brad Wagner,

Dr. Roberts called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m. The working groups provided an update on their group work.

Working Group Updates

Sam Puleio reported on the **Affordability and Finances** working group. They are working through expense profiles such as student fees and activity fees to compare Clarion's fee schedule to other PASSHE schools. They will meet with the scholarship team for an overview of the scholarship resources. Their working group will make recommendations based on these comparisons.

Ray Feroz reported for the **Academic Programming** working group. They met with and received input from the individuals who showed an interest in participating in this working group but were not selected. The group compiled a list of challenges and weaknesses that are quite extensive so they will break down that list. There are some common themes reoccurring across all working groups such as duplication of academic programs with other PASSHE institutions and noncollaboration of programs with other institutions. It also will be useful to know what the desirable enrollment goals for Clarion and its online programs are moving forward.

Terry Latour noted that after today's meeting he will contact Provost Gent to inquire about the availability of an authoritative source of information on the different types of academic programs currently offered by PASSHE institutions, as well as those that are in the process of being developed and offered in the short-term future. He will also point out the need to communicate among Clarion departments information about program ideas that are being investigated and developed.

Matt Shaffer reported on the **Campus Climate and Diversity** working group. They have been conducting focus groups and a Baseline survey to gather information. Ray Feroz stated he could provide names of online students who might participate in the focus groups to gain feedback from this student population. They are on task to provide their recommendations by March 15.

Josh Domitrovich reported on the **Recruitment and Retention** working group. They included in their group discussions the volunteers who were not selected for the working group. This group discussed strengths and opportunities and have an extensive list. They

have three common themes from their discussions and will provide recommendations for these in their final recommendations.

Tree Zuzzio is conducting a focus group later today and feedback from this group will be incorporated into their challenges. Students are responding that their voices are not being heard and nothing is being done based on their feedback.

Josh mentioned other areas of focus is the need to work with the local community and the need for Clarion to identify their niche before the Chancellor comes and ask what does Clarion want to be noted for academically and before other PASSHE schools intercept our ideas.

Deb Kelly reported on the Venango working group on behalf of Gwen Price who could not attend the meeting. They are working on strategies for Venango. The Working Group is coming to some conclusions that will likely make their way into final recommendations, many of which will emphasize themes from the Venango Task Force Report.

Dr. Roberts reminded all working groups to consider the Barnes Center is their group discussions and recommendations.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesdays: March 6, 20, 27, 8 a.m., Conference Room 332 Becht Hall.

Note: The link to participate via zoom will be emailed prior each meeting to allow participation for anyone not available to attend in person.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 a.m.