

True North Initiative Task Force Meeting

January 23, 2019

Gemmell Student Center, Rm. 246

Meeting Notes

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

Absent: Daniel Clark, Lynne Fleisher, Brad Wagner,

Dr. Roberts called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. noting that the primary purpose for today's meeting will be to go over the working groups' progress.

Working Group Updates

Dr. Feroz kicked off the meeting by reporting on his working group – **Academic Programming**. He has agreed to chair the group. This working group meets on Thursdays, 11am, and are finalizing their membership. They added two additional members – Juanice Vega and Deb Sobina and reached out to a student to join the group. They carefully reviewed their working group's charge and the charge for the TNI. They have identified a list of challenges and opportunities and will be adding to this list at their next meeting.

Dr. Latour stated that information about Chancellor Greenstein's remarks at the Board of Governor's meeting last week, and his PowerPoint slides, were shared with the True North Initiative Task Force. The Chancellor indicated that he wants to change the process for developing new academic programs.

Sam Puleio reported on the **Affordability and Finances** working group. He has agreed to chair the group. This group meets every other week and at today's meeting, they will finalize their membership. They added volunteers Crystal Hoffman and Jodie Mount and will be adding a student from CSA. At the first meeting, they reviewed their group's charge. Some members of this working group are also members of the Housing Affordability Task Force. They looked over data provided by that group, such as Clarion's tuition and fee schedules, and meal and housing costs. They reviewed PASSHE's data for tuition and fees and compared the costs to attend each institution.

Matt Shaffer reported on the **Campus Climate and Diversity** working group. He has agreed to chair the group. Group members Merrilyn Dunlap, Josh Domitrovich, Jen Dutkiewicz, and Jen Mills have shifted their efforts to other working groups, primarily the Recruitment and Retention working group. The Campus Climate and Diversity working group is in the process of repopulating their membership. They have added Vasu Aravind, Meredith Karg, Todd Spaulding and are in the process of adding a student representative.

Merrilyn Dunlap and Josh Domitrovich reported on the **Recruitment and Retention** working group. Josh has agreed to chair the group. They have met twice and are in the process of identifying volunteers to join the group. They had a number of volunteers express interest in

contributing important knowledge and perspectives to this working group and will reach out to all who had an interest for their input. At their next meeting, they will review the group's charge and finalize questions for the student focus group they will schedule. Dr. Feroz added that the focus group is a good idea; however, if they can involve students who we have not retained to participate in the focus group, that would be helpful, in addition to students who we have retained and are currently enrolled.

Gwen Price reported on the Venango campus working group. She has agreed to chair the group. They have had three meetings with good discussions about what to do with Venango campus. The working group has added Hope Lineman, Tony Johns, and Nick Howard as additional members. They believe that the primary focus of the campus needs to be clarified. Whatever focus is chosen; the campus will require resources toward that end in order to be successful. A consensus is arising on the working group about the need for a viable business plan for Venango campus to be developed. At their next meeting, they will work toward two or three areas of focus. This group meets every Tuesday until the March 15 deadline.

Dr. Latour mentioned another topic that the TNI was asked to consider in their recommendations to the President is the future of the Barnes Center. He asked the working groups to keep this facility in mind as they conduct their work. Dr. Latour clarified that each working group should have one or two Actionable recommendations to bring to the TNI that will be forwarded to the President for her consideration.

The working groups are asked to forward final lists of their membership to Dr. Latour and Dr. Roberts so that volunteers that have not been selected to participate in working groups can be notified.

Upcoming Meetings

The TNI will continue to meet every two weeks on Wednesdays - February 6, 20, March 6, 20, 8 a.m., Room 246 Gemmell. A Zoom session will be available for meetings going forward if needed. Let Dr. Latour or Dr. Roberts know if you are not able to attend and would like connected via Zoom.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.