

Blue Sky Thought Leadership Group
Wrap up Summary of Spring 2021 Work and Themes

4.29.21

Themes:

1. Living/learning communities
 - Role of grad students as mentors to connect freshman as they move into sophomore/junior years
2. Alumni Association/Alumni engagement
 - "As producers and consumers" of lifelong learning
 - Involvement with Extension enters
3. Open Access/Research/Digital accessibility
 - Follow-up from project conducted by President Seidel/Gabrielle Allen – Principles of Tomorrow's University
4. Student Success
 - Engagement with Grad students including sharing their work
5. Student experience (evaluation of what we are currently doing/recruiting/communications/alumni). What do we want students to experience here?
 - Creating/working on projects in the state and providing leadership opportunities
 - How do we deploy students as ambassadors?
 - Proposal: Presidential Ambassador program
6. Speakers/Visiting professors/UW Institute for Advanced Study
7. Junior faculty should be involved in the process and feel invested/valued
8. Data-driven decision-making
9. Interdisciplinary research and scholarship
 - Comes with the depth of disciplinary experts
 - Along these lines: allowing students to delay declaring a major
 - Hubs of Innovation and excellence around the state
10. Building Diverse Teams and Future Advocates: Administrators/faculty/students out in front of the state meeting with people and especially legislators
 - Teaching students about civic engagement and making them part of the UW team
 - Wallop project (K-12) and then building on as a Cowboy Coach
 - Create a Leadership Academy that allows students to meet people in the state
11. Assets
 - Interdisciplinary Pillar: Unmoderated enthusiasm for actually doing this type of work
 - Create a culture for partnership
 - Interdisciplinary work is not always recognized/valued in the same way as traditional work in the T&P process
12. UW needs to connect with the state and other community colleges

- Expanding our UW Extension offices
- Using the extension offices to host more public events
- Engage UW Alumni in Extension activities
- Expand the role of Extension outside the College of Ag

Questions/Issues:

1. Do Institutional structures hinder progress? Can they be replaced with ones that incentivize?
 - Academic structures and faculty progress (i.e., Tenure and Promotion, Departments)
2. Financial structure/budget model

More thoughts/Action Items:

1. Quick wins and innovation around the state
2. Communication on timelines and next steps for all Strategic Planning groups
3. Clear picture/directory/network mapping and take stock of what we have on campus now (i.e. open access, etc.)
4. VP's visit the units/groups in their division and meet with small groups to build trust
5. Leverage our UW folks across the state
 - Network analysis
 - WBN
 - 4-H and Extension
 - Research and Experiment Stations
 - UW-Casper
 - AMK