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