

Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2004

Present: Ed Johnson, Bobby Dupont, Jim Meza, Oscar Varela, Bob Cashner, Rick Barton, Joe King, Jeraul Mackey, Rachel Kincaid

Bobby Dupont reviewed comments he received from committee members concerning the draft of the strategic planning memo that will be sent to University Deans and Department Chairs. Committee members posed several questions including the difference between departments and programs as well as how to include centers and institutes in this process. Joe King inquired if the University's focus is to attract students nationally or regionally and at the undergraduate or graduate level. Bobby Dupont remarked that funding levels and allocations should be consistent with the University's strategic plan which is the goal of this process. Oscar Varela commented that funding should first be allocated to the University's core programs and that funding beyond core programs should be considered as luxury dollars. Jeraul Mackey inquired if colleges had their own priorities to which the Deans at the meeting responded affirmatively.

Bobby Dupont distributed the self assessment principles drafted by the committee for distribution to the campus. Committee members were pleased with the draft but suggested additional information should be included in the cover letter from Chancellor Ryan to clarify the goal of the assessment. Dr. Dupont proposed the formation of a small group of department chairs as a focus group for the process. Rick Barton recommended adding verbiage to the letter that would establish this process as a response to the 2005 Board of Regents admission standards which require the University to either attract more quality students or function more efficiently as a smaller institution. Bobby Dupont asked Rick Barton to add his comments to the draft.

Oscar Varela began a discussion of the development of a "flagship" agenda for each college as well as a mission statement. Rick Barton agreed with Oscar Varela's comments and stated he would pass along Oscar's remarks to the Executive Committee. Jim Meza reminded the committee that to achieve national significance, programs will require additional faculty who will assume extra duties. Bob Cashner agreed and suggested the College of Urban Affairs and Public Affairs' planning program as an example of a program that could achieve national stature if appropriately funded.

Committee members then began a lengthy discussion about how to avoid receiving a wish list from participants. Joe King recommended that Deans monitor submissions and refrain from forwarding to the Executive Committee unrealistic requests. Rick Barton commented that all colleges need to identify their core needs before additional funding can be acquired.

Bobby Dupont concluded the meeting by asking committee members to forward their suggestions about the memo to him. Jim Meza cautioned that the committee may receive negative feedback and asked committee members to talk to other Deans prior to the issuance of the memo to garner support. Rick Barton remarked he will discuss the memo at the next meeting of the Dean's Council. Bobby Dupont assigned Jim Meza the task of formulating a mission statement with the help of Bob Cashner and Oscar Varela.

