

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
2030 Think Tank
Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2020, 3:30-5 p.m.

Lubar Entrepreneurship Center - Jendusa Conference Room

Present: Jennifer Doering, Kathy Dolan, Scott Gronert, Margaret Noodin, Kris O'Connor, Paul Roebber, Chia Vang, Leigh Wallace, Stan Yasaitis

Absent: Laretta Henderson, Alejandra Lopez, Connor Mathias, Wilkistar Otieno, James Peoples

Guests: Marcus Carriaga, Nikia Handy

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

1. Approval of the agenda: The agenda was approved.
2. Approval of February 18, 2020 minutes: The minutes were approved.
3. Announcements
 - a. Jennifer Doering and Margaret Noodin met with Nikia Handy and Marcus Carriaga who are both present at today's meeting; Connor Mathias will try to attend future meetings.
 - b. Committee co-chairs met with Chancellor Mone and Provost Britz last week and shared the draft document.
 - c. Committee Co-Chairs and Dean Gronert met with Drew Knab and Simon Bronner and discussed several different scenarios.
 - i. Turn the summer bridge program into a one-year program taught by CGS. Target students who are provisionally admitted or soft-denied. The program might utilize a block structure and feel more like a high school schedule. After one year, students would have the option of continuing in the baccalaureate or associate program. Would initially serve about 200 students. The program would provide basic college readiness and offer lower tuition and more student support. The program would be offered in Milwaukee as a gateway to UWM.
 - ii. Another option would be to offer the first 60 credits at a lower tuition. Questions raised by committee: If we do this, would higher level courses have to charge higher tuition? What about housing? Could there be differentiated tuition models for grad school?
 - d. Committee co-chairs met with Faculty Senate. A few questions and suggestions were received.
 - e. Committee co-chairs met with Student Senate. Senators asked several questions including if the environment/climate/sustainability would be addressed in the report.
4. Discussion with Student Visitors
 - a. Nikia Handy – student senator, shared her experience and the experience of other students at UWM.
 - b. Marcus – shared his experience at UWM and ways the student experience could be improved.
 - c. Group Discussion focused on changing the culture at UWM

- i. Georgia State – common example – asked are we (i.e., the institution) the problem? We need to take a hard look at ourselves to see where we need to change. That’s what Georgia State did. Good mentors are good mentors, regardless of what they look like. Acknowledge and value everyone at the table to promote student success.
 - ii. Cultural change from all sides – changing culture is hard, but necessary.
 - iii. Advising and good teachers are important.
 - iv. Strengths of UWM: Being a Panther; top research university-opportunity to do research; diverse events.
 - v. Communities – one member’s idea was that each constituency could have a “bill of rights”
 - vi. Buddy system; peer mentors – needs to be incentivized and incorporated into curricula. Another example could be earning points for tutoring
5. Draft Document Review – There was consensus that the following paragraph conveyed the committee’s overall recommendations regarding transformation of the undergraduate curriculum:

“For UWM to be an attractive and inclusive destination campus, UWM needs to drastically alter the way the undergraduate curriculum is delivered and how students interface with the institution at all levels. This includes re-vamping the general education curriculum, infusing experiential learning in a meaningful way for all undergraduates, creating a single set of degree requirements for all bachelor’s degrees, improving the student experience from recruitment through graduation, creating a more unified and coherent student support structure, and strengthening faculty engagement with students and faculty investment in student success. These changes will have the effect of improving student success measures like retention and graduation, reducing unnecessary additional credits for transfers into UWM and within (between majors), graduating students prepared for workforce entry, and promote a sense of belonging that will catalyze students to complete their education at UWM and remain connected as alumni.”

6. Virginia Commonwealth University’s Core Curriculum was presented as a possible example for a way to unify the proposed changes to the first-year experience, GER, and experiential learning. The committee’s feedback was that this could be a good way to frame the recommendations.
7. The remaining strategy discussion and the development of an online feedback form were deferred.
8. The committee discussed potential questions for the Chancellor and Provost for their visit at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.