

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
2030 Think Tank
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2020, 3:30-5:00 p.m.
Teams Meeting

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

Present: Jennifer Doering, Kathy Dolan, Jackie Fredrick, Scott Gronert, Alejandra Lopez, Margaret Noodin, Kristian O'Connor, Wilkistar Otieno, James Peoples, Paul Roebber, Chia Vang, Leigh Wallace, Stan Yasaitis

Absent: Laretta Henderson, Connor Mathias

1. Approval of the agenda
The agenda was approved.
2. Approval of April 21, 2020 minutes
The minutes were approved.
3. Announcements
Subgroups met last week to flesh out the areas of focus. The report is due in three weeks. Today, the committee will determine the main content. The co-chairs will tackle writing the report and there will be one last check-in meeting to talk through final edits on May 26.
4. New Business –
 - a. Report from three subgroups (program array, core curriculum, and student experience)
 - i. Introduction and Summary Recommendations:
The goal is to find a sustainable business model. To maintain our mission, we need to maintain our faculty at its current size and maintain our undergraduate admissions. The committee recommends four overriding goals; but due to acute budget restraints right now, goals 1 and 3 are the priorities. Resources are required for implementation – time? Is it realistic to ask for buyouts? Everyone needs to make changes as part of our jobs. A lot of changes require governance. The committee should set parameters and guidelines and let the appropriate channels attend to the operational aspects. This committee isn't a decision-making body but can provide examples. Specificity can spur action. Can we provide enough specificity that it can go right into an approval matrix? The report should be as blunt and direct as possible.
 - ii. Curriculum:
First-Year Experience:
First Year Seminar is a good thing – like an Honors College seminar for everybody.
 - College 101 skills
 - Life skills
 - Competencies
 - Cohort model

What do we want to recommend for First Year Seminar? When we talk about GER, we don't necessarily talk about skills. GER could be learning outcome-based, rather than breadth. Reforming GER won't change our revenue, but can change our expenses. How do we phase this in and how would that affect the budget? Teach out – current students would follow old requirements. We could make GER part of the First-Year bin rather than on top of it. An important piece of the first-year experience is to increase students' resilience skills, growth mindset, and overall wellbeing. The first-year experience shouldn't replace intro courses, but rather, focus on relationship-building, study skills, campus knowledge, etc. What are best practices in this area? The study done at UWM focused on liberal arts. It's not our job to design the first-year experience, but to make a general recommendation. All of campus needs to be on board to get this done – we need a unified campus approach rather than a different iteration for each school/college.

GER:

150-200 courses? Do GER courses dovetail with First-Year Experience? There's more to this than just paring down number of courses. Do we want to completely redo the idea of GER? We don't necessarily need 100-200 GER courses. It depends on what we want to do with them. It gets back to the uniform UWM experience/core competencies/experiential learning. There should be a dedicated FTE to handle this recommendation. We should concentrate on the curriculum, the best student experience; it will be up to administration to figure out the budget on the back end. Experiential learning – expand study abroad opportunities for students. Connections with business for internships; growing experiential learning opportunities in our community.

iii. Student Experience:

Institutional culture change – inclusive, welcoming. Equity isn't an "add on." Structural changes: stronger pathways from high schools and transfer institutions; bi-directional flow; reach down to earlier years – middle school and elementary school; recognizing time as a resource.

Faculty development around diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) needs to be part of all the work we do. There isn't follow through from administration to make sure this is happening in different areas.

iv. Program Array and school/college structure:

- Health-related college
- College of Informatics, Engineering, and Applied Science
- College of Design (SARUP and PSOA)

Collaborate in new and innovative ways. How do we deal with our program array? Three basic principles for evaluating academic programs:

- Programs that are core to the academic mission
- Programs that contribute to the community engagement mission
- Programs that are sustainable – do they have enough majors?

This how we make decisions as to where we grow, maintain, or cut.

- b. Final report format
The co-chairs will share a functional draft before next meeting. Are there people we'd like to reach out to for feedback?
- 5. Future Scheduling: Next meeting scheduled for May 26, 2020
 - a. Content and topics for upcoming meetings: Final review and edits.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.