

QEP Committee Minutes
Friday, September 23, 2022
3:15 p.m.

Members Present: Piers Rawling (chair), Philosophy; Casey Dozier, Career Center;; Ethan Venzas, Biological Science (Doctoral Student); Maxine Jones, History; Cindy Chapa, Communication; Jorge Galeano, Engineering; Gale Etschmaier, University Libraries; Ashley Bush, Business; Cathy Levenson, Biomedical Sciences; Jorge Piekarewicz, Physics; Michelle Rambo-Roddenberry, Engineering; Jim Whyte, Nursing; Dawn Carr, Sociology; Justin Kennemur, Chemistry

Members Excused: Toby Park, Education Policy; Jayne Standley, Music; Stephen Tripodi, Social Work; Latika Young, Undergraduate Studies/Doctoral Student; Beth Hodges, Research; Mark Riley; Graduate School;

Staff Present: Ruth Storm, Provost's Office; Robert Bradley, Provost's Office; Leslie Richardson, Center for Teaching and Advancement; James Beck, Graduate School; Tim Logan, Arts and Sciences; James Hunt, Institutional Research; Galiya Tabulda, Institutional Performance and Assessment; Sara Hamon, Undergraduate Studies.

The Chair convened the meeting and indicated two items would comprise the agenda: the University Strategic Plan and the data maintained and published by the Office of Institutional Research regarding doctoral education. The chair first introduced Rick Burnette, Associate Vice President for Strategy and Institutional Analytics.

Dr. Burnette provided an overview of the current university strategic plan and the extensive process used to develop it. The current plan covers the period 2017 through 2022. The planning process was initiated under the former university President John Thrasher. It involved committees from across campus in continuing discussions centered on information provided by the Office of Institutional Research. Discussion focused on continuing the efforts of the university to ensure undergraduate success while reinforcing its commitment to entrepreneurship and academic excellence. Ultimately, the strategic planning deliberations coalesced around six broad goals: deepening the commitment to innovation, excellence in academic and research program, realizing the potential of diversity and inclusion, student success on campus and beyond, preparing our graduate for 21st Century Careers, and investing in our institution and reputation.

To develop the outcomes and tactics associated with the six goals, more than 100 people across campus participated in committees concerned with the development of actionable initiatives. Leaders were identified for each goal and asked to engage faculty, students, staff, alumni and members of the community in the development of meaningful outcomes along with the tactics needed to attain them. The planning group worked with the University Communications department to create a webpage to share the deliberations of the committees and encourage timely feedback.

In the end, the committees and subsequent implementation teams shaped the deliberations into 5 goals and 17 actionable initiatives. Two goals (student success on campus and beyond and preparing graduates for 21st Century Careers) were combined into a general effort aimed at improving student success, especially undergraduate success. The university's top strategic goal was to focus on fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation. To that end, FSU established the Jim Moran College of Entrepreneurship and worked to increase the number of bachelor's graduates who took an entrepreneurship course. Student success, the combined goal, was another principal aim of the plan. Subsequently, broad-based and targeted tactics in advising, tutoring and academic coaching have helped produce rising undergraduate retention and graduation rates.

The strategic plan developed in 2017 was scheduled to expire at the end of 2022. A new planning cycle was scheduled to begin sometime around the end of 2020. However, both the university president and provost announced their intention to retire as that date approached and it was decided to involve the new university leadership in the planning process. A new university President and new Provost were selected in 2021. Their discussions with faculty and staff across campus led to the decision to extend the existing plan and to refocus the strategic plan. Having accomplished the aims of several goals, the refocused plan aimed toward those areas given less attention but still key to the deliberations of the campus community. Specifically, this entailed a renewed emphasis on Goal 2 especially in light of legislative funding of the FSU Health initiative and an expanded emphasis in Goal 3 beyond diversity among undergraduate students. The newly refined emphasis picks up on the aim of Goal 6, to invest strategically in our institution and reputation, and aims to tackle the factors needed for success in improving the university's reputation as well as its academic research, creative ventures and external funding.

Following his presentation, Dr. Burnette responded to a number of questions. One line of questions asked about what was included in "doctoral education." Specifically committee members wanted to know if professional doctorates or applied doctorates were included in the committee charge for the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan. Several questions concerned the nature of "reputation." Some dealt with how "reputation" is measured. Others focused on the delicate balance between disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs in forging a university's reputation. Dr. Burnette, affirming the chair's insights, said such matters were left to the committee's discretion.

Following the discussion of the current and proposed university strategic plan, the chair introduced Dr. James Hunt, Director of Institutional Research. Dr. Hunt offered a discussion of what information the university collects and publishes centrally regarding doctoral education. He referred the members to a newly created site in TEAMS accessed under the label "Quality Enhancement Plan." The TEAMS site contains information on enrollment, student credit hours, degrees awarded, the university degree program inventory (listed by CIP code). The site is dynamic and allows for filtering by categories. Dr. Hunt encouraged the members to access it and explore the questions they have in mind.

Dr. Hunt also introduced the Graduate Student Dashboard. Again, it provides a good amount of information. He mentioned specially information on graduate student admissions. In the process, Dr. Hunt discussed the problems of producing retention and graduate information

analogous to that for undergraduates. In response to questions, he noted that IR has information on graduate student stipend from the Oklahoma State University Annual salary survey as well as information from the indicators collected from AAU universities. He directed committee members to the Survey of Earned Doctorates, which provides tables with information likely of interest to the committee. As part of his discussion, he noted that there are a number of topics for which data are not available centrally. This includes, for example, outcomes. Several departments collect this information and accredited programs may be required to report this information. The chair volunteered this may be an area where a committee survey would help.

After a brief discussion about the agenda of the next meeting, the chair said that he would refine the topics and circulate them to the members. The next meeting of the QEP Committee is scheduled for Friday, October 7, from 3:15-5:00, in 201 Westcott Building. The next meeting will focus on the findings of academic program reviews (James Beck), the discussion of the proposed strategic plan (Tim Logan), and the President's goals (Provost Clark). The chair will provide a Zoom link. Upon motion of the Chair, the Committee adjourned at 5:00 p.m.