

ENVISION★SFA

Concept Paper Team Lead Meeting #1

Meeting Notes – 12/1/14

Present:

Dana Cooper
John Calahan
Shirley Luna (for Craig Turnage)
Jannah Nerren
Steve Westbrook
Eileen Dunbar

Absent:

Craig Turnage
Kim Childs
Theresa Coble
Randy McDonald

Steve reminded the group that we must be mindful of the state's higher education strategic plan as we work through development of our own. As SFA is a state institution, we are expected to play a significant role in the achievement of the goals developed for the new state-wide plan. He provided members with a variety of handouts that illustrate the importance of keeping our work in context. These documents were e-mailed to the concept paper leads and the "Laying the Foundation for the Future of Higher Education" document was posted to the SPT website.

Theme titles, definitions and inclusions were discussed.

A decision was made to move the "aspirational model" element from the Campus Culture theme to the Identify an Identity theme. This centers the Campus Culture theme now primarily on communication and collaboration.

The "Connections" theme surrendered its internal components to the Campus Culture group and will now focus on connections with primarily external entities such as business, government, alums, donors and prospective students.

The "Innovation" theme was focused a little more with the addition of the word "Academic."

There was a lot of discussion about the title of the "High-Quality Faculty and Staff" theme. While salaries are the primary focus of the theme, the hope is to expand reach of the theme to allow for the inclusion of others means of support, such as professional development, work flow, infrastructure, etc.

Concern was voiced about the lack of a purely student-life focused theme, so the "Transformative Experiences" group will be asked to pay particular attention to the feedback that flowed from student-based groups to address their issues as it relates to the student experience.

To achieve continuous communication between writing teams, each team lead will be asked to e-mail the most current iteration of their group's work to envision@sfasu.edu on Monday mornings. Monday afternoon all of these updates will be distributed to each team lead. The goal of this exercise is to

identify and address and overlap as soon as practical. Team leads are encouraged to visit about any perceived overlap and time will be set aside during the team lead meetings to discuss if needed.

Next team lead meeting is Wednesday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. in Austin 305.

Campus Culture (John Calahan)

- Build a culture of
 - o Communication
 - o Collaboration
 - o Trust

Notes: Need to clearly differentiate between this theme and the “Identity” theme or merge the two.

Identify an Identity (Theresa Coble)

- Define and capitalize on our identity
- Small enough to know your name; big enough to meet your needs
- Build a strong SFA identity
- Define our identity
- Campus identity
 - o Graduate programs / Excellence in Research
 - Because our faculty do what they teach
- Pursue aspirational models:
 - o Sustainability
 - o Distance Learning
 - o Culture of Communication

Notes: Must be developed in the context of our role as a state institution (connection to state-wide higher education strategic plan). We are not an island.

Capitalize on our status as an independent institution – nimbleness.

Transformative Experiences for Students (Jannah Nerren)

- Career-ready skills/polish
- Student engagement
- Experience-driven learning
- More student support for life skills development
- Real world experiences for students:

- Internships
- Capstone courses
- Study abroad
- Undergraduate research
- Service learning
- Give students “real world” experiences
- Preparing students for global success:
 - Polish for career and social skills

Make/Increase/Strengthen Connections (Shirley Luna)

- ~~Both internal and~~ external connections
- Increase ties to alumni and community

Academic Innovation (Randy McDonald)

- Improve, increase, and deploy additional technology

Notes: Capitalize on our status as an independent institution – nimbleness.

Recruit and Support High Quality Faculty and Staff (Kim Childs)

- Effective recruitment for faculty, staff and students
- Compensation and perks
- Enrollment growth and salary connection
- Administrative work flow; whose job is it anyway?
- Compensation package
- Generate more resources
 - Capital campaign
 - Faculty & Staff salaries
- Salary increase/equity
- Comprehensive financial support (development of financial aid, professional development, infrastructure)