



ETSU 125

Progressing toward ETSU's 125th Anniversary

Student Life and Services

Task Force Meeting

Date: October 18, 2012

Time: 1:30 – 3:40 PM

Location: Multipurpose Room, Basler CPA

Attendees: Lee, Sherlin, Ellis, Rasnick, Epps, Adinolfi, Good, Costa, Johnson, Jeffress, Williams, Hite, Krieger

MINUTES

Sherlin called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with thanks to those attending. He asked if there were questions about the first meeting or the minutes from that meeting. He said that it was a strong first meeting and that a good first pass was made toward the projected outcome. The outcome for today's meeting will be to review the list, brainstorm ideas and opportunities, and identify gaps in the process.

Sherlin announced that Rick Osborn, Dean of Continuing Studies and Academic Outreach, will give some information about online studies. Graduate Studies will also be presenting to the task force information about that area. Karen King will be attending Monday's meeting to speak about eLearning.

Sherlin noted that after the presentations the group would take some time to review preliminary research on topics identified at the last meeting. Any obvious consolidation of headers and discussion about refining research assignments will be done at this time.

Sherlin then introduced Rick Osborn and asked those present to introduce themselves. Osborn talked about the challenge of creating events to pull off campus together for a shared collegiate experience. An example was an event held last year at the Smoky Mountain Ball Park for students in the Sevierville area. The ETSU Bluegrass Band was invited and there were family activities. About fifty students were in attendance for this first experience. Osborn said that he would appreciate help with this kind of process.

Osborn said that his area would be intensifying their presence in Sevierville and would be holding an event in the spring with President Noland in attendance. Another social event is being planned for the students which may coincide with this visit. He noted that it is a challenge to design the right program that attracts all levels of students. He indicated that 4500 students participate in their programs across all colleges. He said that he would like to present events that would engage students with the university. A discussion of possibilities followed. There was discussion of making connections with students online rather than in person, branding the university through online/cohort programs, and establishing the ETSU identity with cohort students.

Sherlin thanked Osborn for his presentation



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Jeff Beck, Graduate Studies, presented the following concerns.

- Health insurance for graduate students
- Child care options are not affordable on graduate stipends
- Graduate stipends are too low – better students could be attracted with better stipends.
- Students are challenged by the technology of EDT, no direct assistance with this
- Financial Aid office is difficult for distance students

There was brief discussion on several of these items. Lee questioned where Graduate Studies saw themselves in twenty-five years. Beck responded that they envisioned increased collaboration in more programs being offered by partnership with other institutions. Sherlin thanked Beck for his presentation.

Sherlin asked the group to circle the board for review of the ideas presented at the previous meeting. Sherlin asked if anyone had additional opportunities to add to the list. There was discussion about the University's footprint and limitations. Epps made the point that the task force should focus on student service and student life and be careful not to address issues that are being covered on other task forces. Ellis expressed that the group should not constrain itself with the idea of footprint. He noted that President Noland asked for “what ifs” and that the group should determine those and then build the footprint around it.

At this point Dr. Noland dropped in to thank the group and ask if there were questions. He said that he wanted to encourage the group to think of the broad goal. He relayed his experience of visiting Virginia Tech earlier in the week and learning of their goal of becoming one of the top research facilities in the country. They identified the broad goal and worked through the process achieving their goal. He asked the group to ask the big question and not be bound by anything that is current; policy, legislation, governance, name. He then asked if the group had questions. Ellis responded that his visit was very timely as his comment about not being bound by the present would help with their discussion. Dr. Noland again thanked the group and reminded them of events taking place on campus this evening before leaving.

Williams questioned the role of community colleges and asked if we are going to be more focused on junior and senior level students. She asked if we wanted more of that or if we want students coming to us as freshman and getting that experience. Lee noted that the state could push this and suggested the question be periodically reviewed. Sherlin asked if there were other comments. Johnson brought up retention of diverse populations. This was followed by a discussion of engaged alumni.

There was discussion of what broad goals the task force could identify. These ideas were put forth.

- 80% retention to graduation (6 year) by 2020
- 50% student engagement in campus life
- A university students fight to attend
- Students have pride and satisfaction in facilities and services
- Facilities and services that support student engagement and retention
- Students know that they are the priority



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- Being a university that changes lives – transformational institution

Side items:

- Retention
- Role of community college
- Freshmen transfer
- Cost
- Access

There was brief discussion of what preparation would need to be done before the meeting on Monday. Adinolfi suggested turning the identified items into an outline. It was decided that she, Ellis, Lee, and Sherlin would work together on this. Sherlin would identify a time and share this information with this group.

Sherlin thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 3:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Marlow