

MINUTES
KSU Faculty Senate Committee on University Planning
FSCOUP Open Forum on the University Strategic Plan
Thursday, October 2, 2008 3:30 pm
K-State Union, Flint Hills Room

Visitors: Provost Nellis, Associate Provost Dyer, and Senate Colleagues.

1. Chair Tom Vontz called the forum to order at 3:30pm.
2. Chair Vontz announced that the minutes of the Open Forum would be sent to FSCOUP members as soon as possible after the forum for their input and approval. Once the minutes are approved by FSCOUP, they will be sent to Provost Nellis. Provost Nellis will send a revised Strategic Plan back to FSCOUP for discussion and vote. FSCOUP will meet on Thursday, October 16th in the Union 205 at 3:30 for this purpose.
3. Senator Clark raised the issue of the broad language and high level of generality of the Strategic Plan. Provost Nellis explained that the Strategic Plan was intentionally broad and consistent with other Strategic Plans at similar universities. One of the reasons for its breadth was so that priorities could be set within individual departments.
4. Senator Clark (on behalf of Senator Dodd) commented that faculty salaries should appear first on the list of bulleted items in Theme 1. Provost Nellis explained that the themes or bullets were not listed in order of priority. Provost Nellis agreed that increasing faculty salaries is an important issue and he would move that bullet to the top of the bulleted list under theme 1.
5. Senator Crenshaw commented that if the themes and action items are not listed in order of priority, then this should be stated in the document. Provost Nellis said that the Strategic Planning Committee did not list either the themes or the bullets in any particular order. In part, so that individual units could address priorities as situations and needs dictated. Provost Nellis, however, agreed that adding language explaining the listing of themes and action items would be a welcome addition to the document.
6. Senator Condia noticed that the language of themes 1 and 2 was inconsistent with the language of the other themes (themes 1 and 2 do not begin with action verbs). Condia suggested changing themes 1 and 2:

“Theme 1: Recruit, Retain, and Develop High Quality Faculty.”
“Theme 2: Recruit, Retain, and Develop High Quality Professional and Classified Staff.”

Provost Nellis agreed that this change would clarify themes 1 and 2.
7. Senator Clark suggested that FSCOUP may want to review the order of the themes and bullets to suggest other changes in their order.
8. Senator Condia suggested that we add a paragraph in the Strategic Plan that provides a discussion of its substantive context. In particular, Condia encouraged the Provost to consider describing the proposed plan in the context of KSU’s previous plan – what distinguishes the new plan from the old and why? Provost Nellis agreed that this context would be a welcome addition to the Strategic Plan.
9. Senator Vontz reported that a Senate colleague was concerned that while the Strategic Plan addresses the issue of “improved classroom space,” the plan did not mention the need for more classroom space. The Provost agreed that KSU not only needs to improve its current classrooms, but also add more classrooms. Provost Nellis suggested that the following language be added to the action item in theme 3:
 - “Invest in improved and expanded classroom space to meet future teaching needs and to integrate state-of-the-art technology.”

10. Senator Clark (on behalf of Senator Dodd) commented that a bullet in theme 3 was misleading. We should not simply ensure the transfer of credit from one institution to another is “seamless;” we should also be concerned with evaluating credit from other institutions. Senator Crenshaw stated in addition to this concern, she believed that KSU should aim for consistency. Senator Crenshaw also stated that she believed the Strategic Plan should use the term “courses” or “coursework” rather than “classes.” Senator Vontz suggested changing the bullet to read:

- “Ensure that the evaluation and transfer of coursework from one institution to another is efficient and consistent.”

Provost Nellis agreed these changes would improve this item.

11. Senator Hohn asked if it was in the best interests of KSU to endorse a five-year plan – especially in the context of hiring a new President. Provost Nellis and other Senators explained that the Strategic Plan could be revisited at any time and that five-year plans were typical.
12. Senator Spikes raised the issue of the connection among and between various plans under construction at KSU and the Strategic Plan. Provost Nellis explained that the Strategic Plan served as a guide to other plans and planning committees.