

Graduating the Successful Student
February 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Provost Arden

Introduction to Strategic Planning task force committees.

Brief introduction to the last strategic plan (Pathway to the Future, 2011-2020). Goal 1 was to enhance the success of our students through educational innovation and there were highly successful outcomes (improved retention and graduation rates).

For this next strategic plan, we will continue to make progress on retention and graduation rates but we would like to think more broadly and think about the student we do graduate and what skill sets they have. Students will change professions 8-9 times throughout their career. From an employer's perspective, aside from intellectual and technical skills, what are the unique skills sets that you can expect from an NCSU graduate? What sets our graduates apart?

From a student perspective, what skills can they leave with that will lead them to a successful career?

The skills that Provost Arden thinks of when he thinks of skills above intellectual and technical are transcendent skills –communication (written and oral), ability to work as part of an interdisciplinary team (and diverse team), leadership, entrepreneurial thinking, digital literacy skills, and global understanding.

I hope this task force thinks boldly. Don't be scared to think completely out of the box.

Where are we now as a university? What have we achieved over the last 9 years? Where are the gaps? Think of a handful of major themes that you feel will move us dramatically forward as a university.

Will the task forces be interacting? Yes and no. The chairs of the 9 task forces will meet regularly and so will the Executive Steering committee. If you wanted to hold a joint meeting with another committee, I think the co-chairs could make that happen.

Dr. Louis Hunt

Meeting agenda—break into three groups to answer two questions. (20 minutes to brainstorm and 10 minutes to report out to the larger group) then break into even smaller groups. (15 minutes to brainstorm and 15 minutes to report out to the larger group).

- 1. What is the successful student? What does the successful graduate look like 5 years out or 10 years out?**

- a. Group one-ability to work w/ diverse teams, flexible, agile, confident, great critical and creative thinking skills, well-being and emotional health, ability to have a safe place for self-discovery, global engagement beyond study abroad, project-based experience, well rounded student in and outside the classroom, experiential learning, ethics, morality, & grit. Looking at the successful Graduate student-mentorship, interdisciplinary, leadership, professional options beyond academia and finding your path. We want students to have an impact in their corner or beyond.
 - b. Group two-confidence, versatility, financial literacy, ability to seek out mentorship, certificate programs, & community building.
 - c. Group three-ethical, cultural competency, curious, skepticism, & exploration
 - d. Nikki (on zoom, not in a group)-demonstrates resiliency in the face of challenges, adaptable, advocacy skills to seek resources, financially literate, confidence in self and skills, and socially & culturally responsive
- 2. What are the challenges (think about that from a global perspective)? How are they also NCSU challenges? What are some bold and innovative ideas to address the challenges?**
- a. **Group one**
 - i. Variability among students (resources, backgrounds, educ. experiences, family experiences, etc.)
 - ii. How do we prepare students for jobs that don't yet exist?
 - iii. How do we manage the unwritten curriculum for those students who don't come to us from a privileged background?
 - iv. How do we get the resources and the will to address the disparities that we see?
 - v. Coherence coordination and alignment across programs, classes and experiences
 - vi. Tendency towards compartmentalization
 - vii. Striking balance between big ideas and practicality

Responses:

- I. Take energy that's generated from common experience and the commitment that many on the campus have and translate into coherent set of principles across programs, classes and units.
 - II. Providing multiple pathways to a common destination.
 - III. High impact practices (research based).
 - IV. Develop wrap around services that are student centered.
- b. **Group two**
 - i. Financial burden that students have to carry with rising tuition costs
 - ii. Students having effective orientation to the university
 - iii. Resistance to change
 - iv. Capstone projects tend to be disciplinary focused

- v. Where is this next gen. of students coming from? Are we promoting that we only want the best and the brightest? Are we missing students that add a certain level of diversity?

c. Group three

- i. How do we streamline what we do? How can we take a serious look at policies and procedures and understand what the red tape is for faculty and students?
- ii. How do we make it more of a personal and professional investment of DGPs and GSE's to provide service to their students and have them ready for job preparedness, mentorship and training?
- iii. What can we do to identify and provide professional development opportunities?
- iv. How can we diversify how course requirements are structured? What can we do to develop online course delivery or online degrees collectively?
- v. Financial aspect of attending graduate school (stipends)
- vi. Role for teaching graduate students, mentoring and advising. How post docs play a role in mentoring and teaching. How to streamline that.

d. Group four

- i. Why should students come to NCSU versus somewhere else?
 1. Invest in grad. advising and mentoring (grad students are not being trained on how to be the advisors of tomorrow) which leads to students getting varied experiences from lab to lab or program to program.
 2. Career planning, support services on campus, transition planning and professional development

e. Group five

- i. Professional development specifically for grad students
- ii. Joint delivered academic programs which are more global (versus UNC - CH)

Responses:

1. Opportunity for PhD project based sponsored by industry

f. Group six

- i. Cost, access, silos, interdisciplinary educ.