

**Strengthening University-Wide Interdisciplinarity  
University Strategic Planning Task Force  
Third Meeting**

April 3, 2020

Via Zoom (<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/398995554>)

*In Attendance: Paul Lunn, Fred Wright, Jenny Evans, Kelly Wick, Jason Delborne, Owen Duckworth, Amy Grunden, Peter Harries, David Hawley, Jonathan Horowitz, Blair Kelley, Bob Kelly, Jennifer Kuzma, Jane Lubischer, Mostakima Lubna, Ross Meentemeyer, Jorge Piedrahita, Joshua Pierce, Bret Smith, and Rob Smart.*

*Not in Attendance: John Begeny, Sarah Desmarais, Kevin FitzGerald, and Chris McGahan.*

**Approval of Minutes of March 20 Meeting Minutes**

**Review and finalize interdisciplinarity (ID) definition**

It was suggested for the group to continue to working on the definition rather than define a set definition at this point.

**Sub-group reports**

*Why do we need and want ID (Harries)*

The group focused on explaining ID and the reasons why ID is important. There was some overlap with this group and models of success. Is there an optimal mix of disciplinary and ID? It is a mix of initiatives that will make our campus work well. "Require the integration of perspectives and knowledge from many disciplines" is a statement the group will focus on to remind everyone ID efforts have not hampered disciplinary so far.

*Measurements of success (Horowitz)*

The group only had two members during the sub-group meeting, and they started with a hypothesis. They focused on a few key results, but they have not come up with any recommendations yet. They created a list of potential metrics to observe at the faculty, department, college and university level.

*Models of success (Piedrahita)*

The group looked at graduate education and undergraduate education. Each section summarizes internal models, challenges to success and examples of external models. Some programs have started with strong ID programs at the graduate level that influenced programs at the undergraduate level later. The group mentioned the importance of having a centralized home for ID programs. There was a general discussion around how a culture shift and an overarching structure is needed regarding ID models. Tenure was also discussed briefly and how ID could be incorporated.

*Potential survey questions (Delborne)*

The group set several goals: collect examples of successes and barriers, determine what would incentivize ID, determine ID expertise, and uncover concerns about ID. The survey has three

parts: demographics, lickert-scale questions based on how the university is incorporating ID, and open-ended questions. The goal for the survey is to gather insight more than anything.

### **Next steps and planning for draft report**

*Task Force charge below for reference*

- Describe the central challenges facing NC State that are key to our success in this area.
- Provide a brief overview of where we stand relative to facing those challenges, including initiatives that were started in the Pathway to the Future Strategic Plan including progress made.
- Propose and prioritize 2 to 5 themes to be addressed in the next strategic plan.
- Create initiatives or strategies that would make progress within those themes.

The group reviewed the task force charge. The sub-groups should continue working on the documents and ask for input for the other members of the task force, especially the survey. Each sub-group chair should inform the group when their document is ready to review, preferably by Monday, April 13. Each sub-group should then work on narrative drafts of the document.

### **Proposed next meeting**

The next meeting will be Friday, April 17 from 3-5 p.m. via Zoom.