

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

May 29, 2020

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

In Attendance: Paul Lunn, Fred Wright, Jenny Evans, Jason Delborne, Owen Duckworth, Kevin FitzGerald, Amy Grunden, David Hawley, Peter Harries, Jonathan Horowitz, Blair Kelley, Bob Kelly, Jennifer Kuzma, Jane Lubischer, Mostakima Lubna, Chris McGahan, Ross Meentemeyer, Jorge Piedrahita, Joshua Pierce, Rob Smart and Bret Smith. Christopher Galik and Eli Typhina also joined as a guest speaker.

Not in Attendance: Sarah Desmarais.

Approval of Minutes of May 8 Meeting Minutes

Guest: Galik and Typhina

Galik is the co-chair of the academics working group on the sustainability council. He would like the Task Force to consider bringing in the concept of sustainability and sustainable related activities into the strategic plan task force. The working group has been trying to infuse sustainability into teaching and research across the university and create a framework to do so. Typhina presented ideas for the task force to consider regarding a way for those interested in ID to find others through a searchable portal, creating an ID mission statement and an evaluation or change policy around ID.

Matrix model discussion

Wright presented the matrix model for discussion that was distributed to the committee members for review prior to the meeting. Here is a summary of the discussion:

- Would like to see someone proactively in charge of pulling everyone involved with ID together in a unified way. A structure is needed for this for graduate and undergraduate teaching as well as engagement with external organizations.
- A person, or team of people, could be individuals who are not involved in ID to have a neutral stance in distributing funding to various ID projects. This task could be integrated in positions already in existence or new rolls. These individuals could also match those seeking help from other disciplines to create ID opportunities. Staff support could also be key for ID becoming more successful.
- Central themes to unite around is also something to consider. The global division utilizes central themes with international partners due to their global recognition to highlight what NCSU is doing.
- There was concern about having one person manage all ID for the entire campus because ID is so multidimensional. Instead, super clusters or super themes might be an option on a way to structure ID.
- It is important to create a structure where people feel included and not excluded, specifically making sure it is focused on social science and not just natural science fields.
- More “glue” and a better ID structure is key. Someone has to own ID responsibility. Otherwise, it does not get done when it is dispersed amongst too many individuals.

Sub-group assignments and charge

The charge for the sub-group is to respond to the matrix model. Ideas and challenges toward fostering and providing interdisciplinary research, teaching and engagement is also important. Each sub-group

is tasked with coming up with one theme that could be incorporated in the final task force report. The original charge for the task force was also reviewed.

Update on survey analysis

The quantitative and qualitative analysis is underway.

Next meeting date

June 5 from 3-4 p.m. via Zoom