

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

June 5, 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, David Hawley, Peter Harries, Jonathan Horowitz, Blair Kelley, Bob Kelly, Jane Lubischer, Mostakima Lubna, Chris McGahan, Ross Meentemeyer, Jorge Piedrahita, Joshua Pierce, Rob Smart and Bret Smith.*

*Not in Attendance: Sarah Desmarais, Kevin FitzGerald and Jennifer Kuzma,*

**Sub-group charge reminder**

Each sub-group (engagement, teaching and research) is tasked with coming up with one theme that could be incorporated in the final task force report. The matrix model for interdisciplinarity will serve as one of the big ideas in the final report.

**Sub-group breakout sessions**

The task force broke into sub-groups to discuss the respective themes.

**Sub-group pitches of themes and implementation strategy ideas for each group**

Engagement. Kelley noted there are a lot of ID scholars who do not know one another. The main idea focused on bringing university engagement to a 21<sup>st</sup> century level, in which the historical strengths of outreach, engagement, and extension can be brought to groups of ID faculty where engagement has historically been less emphasized. Additional investments in non-faculty engagement positions could greatly extend the capabilities of various faculty and staff on campus.

Teaching. Lubischer said the theme her group discussed was around transforming undergraduate and graduate education through the intentional integration of ID program via “umbrella programs. These programs span traditional disciplinary boundaries that provide opportunities for students to explore different areas and hopefully to do so across disciplines. Another initiative focused on curricular reform too create multidisciplinary or ID programs at the undergraduate level.

Research. Horowitz said the group discussed ID could be more coordinated and more effective. ID is already strong, but emphasizing connections among existing ID entities can lead to tremendous synergies at NC State. A model for an academy or school would give faculty an intellectual home for ID by providing dynamic units with periodic productivity review by the university. The group also thinks the academy or school would allow for faculty to bring the best ideas to the surface for support by the university.

**Wrap up, discussion and next steps**

Each sub-group with draft a 300-word “theme” and implementation plan by Wednesday, June 10. Evans should be notified when these are saved in the Google Drive folder.

**Next meeting date**

June 12 from 3-5 p.m. via Zoom