

Humboldt State University  
Task Force on Increasing Student Success and Academic Excellence Committee  
Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Harry Griffith Hall 217

Co-chair Dr. Scott Paynton called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

**Members Present:**

Ramona Bell, Beth Eschenbach, Conor Handley, Dale Oliver, Scott Paynton, Paula Tripp-Allen, Rhea Williamson

**Members Absent:**

Peg Blake, Juan Cervantes, Kristen Stegman-Gould, Nancy Vizenor

**Discussion:**

The task force meetings for spring semester will be on Wednesdays 9 am-11 am. There is not a time when everyone can meet, so committee members should attend when they can. Vizenor is unable to attend regular meetings but she is able to do tasks as assigned. Williamson has a conflict with meeting time as well. Tasks will be assigned outside the meetings. Meetings are scheduled for two hours but may not last that long.

The following working definitions of “student success” and “academic achievement” were approved by the task force:

*“Humboldt State University is interested in the individual growth of the whole student, including intellectual, emotional, social, ethical, physical, and spiritual development.*

***Student Success** is defined by personal and academic achievement, engagement in educationally purposeful activities, acquisition of desired knowledge, skills and competencies, persistence, attainment of educational objectives, and post-college performance.”*

**Academic Excellence** is the demonstrated ability to perform, achieve, and/or excel in scholastic activities.

*(These definitions are influenced by the work of The National Post-Secondary Education Cooperative, Joe Cuseo at Marymount College, Fresno State, and others).*

These working definitions will be posted on the Strategic Plan website. The definition will inform the questions that task force will begin asking, such as:

- What is academic achievement?
- What is engagement in educationally purposeful activities?
- What is satisfaction?
- What are we doing as a campus to develop spiritual growth?
- What do we need that we don't already have?
- How would we like to be different in five years?
- Are faculty, staff and students fine with where we are now?
- How can we help students get connected to off-campus services?
- What partnerships can we improve to enhance the growth of the whole HSU student?
- How do we/will we organize outreach and communication of services and partnerships?

There was discussion regarding helping students get connected to off-campus services. Oliver stated that there must be outreach and communication. Because we can't be everything to every student, we must have to have off-campus partnerships. We need to take prime opportunities to conserve – not adding or duplicating, but finding things that are already in the community. Paynton said that we want to develop students into being the person we want to live next door to. We want to get our students out into the community. Tripp-Allen discussed the idea of brand and prioritization - If you come from Humboldt you will leave as "this kind of person."

As an example of utilizing community partnerships, there is a lack of access to food when campus is closed. Williamson indicated that there is a grant for students to purchase food at Wildberries Marketplace and farmers Market, even including a bus for transportation. How are we communicating this to students?

Williamson mentioned that we need one place for students to go to learn about student research opportunities. The idea was for there to be a place in the library that would provide the information. What practices do we have in place to ensure equity in student opportunities for scholarly research? How do we enhance equity and access to all students for educational activities?

Williamson has survey results that she can share with the task force. As feedback is received from people, Paula can pull it together in one document.

The task force will meet with the Strategic Plan forum facilitator Mary Gelinas at the next meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 9:00 am. She will be the facilitator for the February 13, 2015 open forum in the Great Hall. Each task force will have a 2½ hour session – this task force session will take place from 8:30 – 11:00 am. There will be small round tables of five people each with table rotations. There was discussion about getting a sense of what the task force wants to do and the questions we want to ask. Task force members should plan to attend all day. Williamson recommended recording the forum. Eschenbach discussed "World

Café” as a method. World Café has all the forms and information needed to set up the discussion. Task force members were asked to take good notes.

Paynton would like to break definitions down into parts and ask the following three questions:

- 1) What is it?
- 2) What does HSU currently do?
- 3) What should HSU do in the next five years?

These three questions can be asked for each part of the definition for student success. This will start to provide patterns that will then get us to the questions we want to answer. How the graphic recorders will work will be decided with Mary Gelinis and the task force. Paynton would like to ask people to write their answers to questions as well as given orally. Task force members can give table participants their email addresses for communication and comments. Williamson said she finds the Strategic Planning website unhelpful. User Voice was discussed and how questions can be posted now by the co-chairs by clicking the “Share Your Ideas” button.

The format for February 13<sup>th</sup> forum will give us a better sense how the HSU community sees our draft of the definition of student success and where we need to go. Pose questions that fit into our definition of success that could be phrased as follows:

- What is personal and academic achievement to you?
- What does acquisition of desired knowledge mean to you?
- What is HSU doing well or successfully?
- Where should HSU be with helping fulfill your personal and academic achievement?
- What are the strengths of HSU and what we should build on in the next five years?
- Is there anything missing from the working definition?

The charge to the task force is on the Strategic Planning website and the questions we plan to pose can be posted there as well.

Task force members are encouraged to bring their mobile devices to the forum for interactive use. Paynton will format questions to make them more clear and succinct to use as starting point with Mary Gelinis at next week’s meeting. Paula can cut and paste from other strategic plans and put on a google doc.

Look at website for lists of people/groups other task forces are meeting with.

**Next meeting:**

Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 9:00 am, Harry Griffith Hall 217

**Meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm.**