

Planning Committee Minutes

February 25, 2014

Attendance: Tammy Anderson, Steve Beauregard, Craig Binney, Pauline Dobrowski, Dan Doherty, Joe Favazza, Jeanne Finlayson, Marilena Hall, Jean R. Hamler, Heather Heerman, Jim Hermelbracht, Glen Ilacqua, Lisa Talusan, Laura Uerling. Excused: Emily Broe, Sandra Kenney, Ed McGushin, Maryann Perry, Doug Smith, Sarah Varadian, Greg Shaw.

Planning Group Discussions:

The agenda for the meeting consisted of updates from the various planning groups that are working on different components of the next strategic plan, as well as a review of the timeline heading into the spring. The meeting began with a discussion of the planning groups' work to date, the highlights of which follow:

Enrollment/Students Planning Group: The group has been discussing the following topics: demographic data (projected high school enrollments by region; projected private elementary and secondary school enrollments, etc.); Stonehill's class profile over the past five years; trends in gross/net pricing at Stonehill; trends in pricing at other colleges; trends in student debt at Stonehill and nationally; recently conducted Stonehill retention study. Other items discussed: Stonehill's reliance on student fee revenue; how financial aid is packaged; what the profile for students might/should look like by 2020; reaching out to other groups to discuss enrollment.

Academic Program Planning Group: The group has discussed the following topics: review of process that established the need for "Listening Sessions" for community constituents (two faculty sessions, one staff session, two student sessions); themes that are emerging, which relate to general education, changing student body and its impact on the academic program, marketing academic programs, 21st century learning spaces, barriers related to engaged learning, (i.e., transportation), the potential for new programs, partnerships with other colleges and universities, and integration of Catholic tradition/mission in Stonehill's academic programs.

Student Experience Planning Group: The group's discussions have included the following: identifying high level initiatives that impact student experiences (e.g., ideas that focus on distinctiveness, those that are rich/robust); creating an integrated four-year student development plan that covers all areas of student engagement; developing an integrated student advising program that supports the above and that involves many on campus; identifying and enhancing high impact learning experiences by class, and identifying outcomes for each; related recommendations from the Diversity Task Force (DTF). The group has begun to collaborate with the Academic Program planning group regarding the statement 'Holy Cross influences'.

Organizational Effectiveness Planning Group: The group's discussions thus far have focused primarily on the topics of resources and communication. Recommendations to be made will be student focused. Discussions have included the following: right sizing staff and resources (using comparisons to peer/aspirant schools to help with this analysis); what and how Stonehill outsources, both presently and in the future; designing a system where we have a common place for important announcements and information (discussed the use/non-use of myHill); the ways we currently communicate (both effective and ineffective); opportunities to collaborate more effectively and with shared objectives; identifying a common list of schools to which to compare Stonehill.

The Committee then discussed the planning timeline and the deliverables that each of the planning groups would be asked to provide this spring. While the planning process initially called for each group to submit a draft set of objectives, initiatives and goals, several groups will not be in a position to do so this spring. In lieu of this, the Committee agreed that each of the four planning groups should submit a two to three page summary of their discussions, including the future direction that is being envisioned in the respective areas of focus. Groups who are further along are free to submit draft initiatives and goals. The Office of Planning & IR will then assemble the four reports into one document that can be shared with the Board of Trustees and the Stonehill Community as part of the planning process.

To ensure that the document can be assembled and submitted to the Board in early May (for the Board's mid-May meeting), the Committee agreed to ask the groups to submit their summaries by April 1. Several Committee members emphasized the Board's desire to be more actively engaged in the planning process. Thus, the document that is shared with the Board should be seen not only as an update on the planning process but as an invitation for Board members to contribute to the process as well.

The Committee also discussed updating and engaging the broader Stonehill Community. Given that the planning process overall is moving along more slowly than initially anticipated, and the desire to give the planning groups as much time as possible to continue their work so that a meaningful report can be pulled together, the Committee discussed distributing the document to the Stonehill Community simultaneous to, rather than before, sending it to the Board. In this way, the Committee would be collecting feedback from the broader Community and the Board concurrently; the feedback, in turn, would be incorporated into the planning process as it continues during the summer.

The Committee's next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for April 15, 2014.