

Strategic planning work has been moving apace since the last faculty meeting.

- (1) Several work groups reported on their progress at the Board of Trustees meeting on October 24. This work was extremely well received and many of these work groups are now moving forward with their proposals.
- (2) We have had some questions about what moving forward looks like given the structure of the work groups (i.e., the Green Light Groups) and our existing processes. Do all work groups need to go through Green Light Groups (GLGs) for every proposal? Even if they are minor? Do proposals go through GLGs before or after going through our normal faculty processes? What is the process for deciding about allocating resources to different initiatives? The co-chairs discussed how to streamline this process so as not to make additional work / meetings for everyone, but to make sure that work is thoroughly vetted. The process we discussed is as follows:
 - When work groups have a proposal they would like to implement the work group chairs should send a **brief** email to the Green Light Group chairs (Matt Bierman, LeAnn Hughes, Karla Carney-Hall) describing their initiative. The GLGs will decide whether they need to vet the proposal further and what additional action to take then (a more formal proposal, a meeting with representatives, etc.)
 - Once the GLGs have signed off, if the proposal requires resources it will then be discussed in cabinet meetings. The president will then make a determination about whether resources will be available for the initiative.
 - Proposals will then go through appropriate faculty channels (i.e., CC, CUPP, etc.).
- (3) In addition to the strategic planning work of the work groups, academic program evaluation is underway. By now the materials about this process will have made their way to everyone so here I will report on some updates:
 - There has been some confusion about data sets that we will receive from Gray Associates (Appendix III in the program evaluation materials). This means that some of the data sets that departments were initially supposed to address may not be available and other kinds of data will be provided instead. CUPP, CC, and SPCC chairs will be working with Michael Thompson, Kevin Sullivan, and Gray Associates to align the data with our process. We will report out once we have more information.
 - Gray Associates led a two day workshop on November 12 and 13 to discuss program evaluation. The first day was outward facing: a market analysis to explore possible new programs that we might want to consider adding. The second day was internally focused -- exploring the market for our existing programs along with a few pieces of data about our enrollments. We did not have the complete data that will be used during program evaluation and did not make any initial assessments of programs. Rather we used this time to generate initial questions departments may want to consider when writing their 8 page responses. These initial questions will be shared with departments.
 - Gray Associates will not have the internal data ready for us until January and the schedule will need to be adjusted to reflect this change. The administration will be working with Gray to schedule training sessions with chairs and directors and members of the PETF as to how to interpret the data that they will provide.

- (4) SPCC is currently electing a replacement for SPCC co-chair. The new co-chair will be announced soon and will take over responsibilities next semester.
- (5) The FYE work group has provided the following brief update to share with the faculty: The FYE Work Group has focused its work this semester on strengthening what we are already doing well for first year students in the Gateway Colloquium. We are currently preparing a CC proposal that will call for information literacy to be formally included in the course, as well as two initiatives that will introduce first year students to the intellectual life at the University: requiring integration of the summer reading in some way, and requiring that students attend three of five academic skills series workshops held throughout the semester. Gateway instructors will also be encouraged to promote all-campus events such as President's, Founder's Day, and Honor's convocations, and annual theme-related activities that connect with their courses. We are also discussing assessment of the Gateway Colloquium, how the course fits into students' first year, and considering possible opportunities for making the Gateway more of a common experience. We welcome faculty and staff input as we continue our conversations around these initiatives. Please share your thoughts with FYE Work Group Chair, Rebecca Mafazy <rmafazy@iwu.edu> and/or other committee members: Brandon Common <bcommon@iwu.edu>, Ellen Furlong <efurlong@iwu.edu>, Mark Halx <mhalx@iwu.edu>, Chandra Shipley <cshipley@iwu.edu>, and Kevin Sullivan <ksulliva@iwu.edu>.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Furlong