

True North Initiative Task Force Meeting

December 12, 2018

Gemmell Student Center, Rm. 246

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Daniel Clark, Josh Domitrovich, Jen Dutkiewicz, Merrilyn Dunlap, Ray Feroz, Lynne Fleisher, Deb Kelly, Anita Lahr, Terry Latour, Jen Mills, Gwen Price, Sam Puleio, Adam Roberts, Matt Shaffer, Chad Smith, Chad Thomas, Tammy Varsek, Tree Zuzzio.

Absent: Brad Wagner

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

Dr. Latour announced the first topic of conversation for today's meeting would be the Venango Campus Report and Recommendations provided by the Venango Strategic Advisory Group. TN had access to the report prior to today's meeting and was prepared to discuss the recommendations from the point of view of how the TN Task Force should consider their recommendations within the scope of our Charge.

Dr. Latour stated he and Dr. Roberts attended a meeting yesterday with the Venango Campus Advisory Council. Hope Lineman provided data sets and information for Venango, particularly, on workforce development for the region that we should consider.

Also, President Pehrsson has requested TN provide her our recommendations for the pathway for Venango campus in our report due April 1, 2019.

He reported that the Advisory Group's report included five areas of focus:

1. Campus Leadership and Organizational Structure
2. Academic Faculty and Program Presence
3. Recruitment and Admissions
4. Continuing Progress in Workforce Development Outreach and Opportunities
5. Campus Infrastructure

At this time, Dr. Latour asked for the committee's recommendation on how the TN should proceed based off of the Advisory Group's report.

Committee members discussed the recommendation that a full-time administrator be appointed to oversee campus operations and to have a strong presence in the community to develop partnerships. How that position is classified and the full scope of the responsibilities should not be the decision of the TN. Currently, Hope Lineman is the contact, however, she is only allocated one-third of her time to Venango campus and most agreed that it is not enough time to fulfill the expectations.

The types of programs and courses were discussed, as were the types of students to be recruited. Some suggested that the Venango Campus may appeal to students interested in certificate programs, associate degrees, the small campus environment, or those that cannot afford a 4-year degree at the time. The campus has a history of assisting dislocated workers and non-traditional students. It may not be the desired environment for traditional first time in college students seeking a range of student activities opportunities.

It was suggested that Venango Campus offer two-year programs, trade or tech school courses/certifications - fields of study unique to the region, such as oil and gas exploration.

Some committee members expressed their concern that this committees' Charge has changed since the first meeting with President Pehrsson. Latour confirmed that President Pehrsson wants the True North Initiative to work with the Venango Strategic Advisory Group, gather additional information, and to make recommendations about the future of the Venango Campus. Dr. Pehrsson has said publicly that "we're not closing down the Venango Campus." She wants us to examine the options and recommend changes to better serve students and the community.

Lynne Fleisher questioned why there was not a representative from Venango campus on the TN committee. Dr. Latour stated that several TN members have strong Venango ties and that subcommittees may include individuals, staff or community members, from outside the TN.

The following subcommittees were established:

- **Venango Working Group** – Deb Kelly, Gwen Price, Tammy Varsek, Anita Lahr
- **Affordability and Finance** - Jen Dutkiewicz, Sam Puleio, Chad Smith, Chad Thomas
- **Recruitment and Retention** – Merrilyn Dunlap, Josh Domitrovich, Jen Mills, Tree Zuzzio
- **Campus Climate and Diversity** – Merrilyn Dunlap, Josh Domitrovich, Jen Dutkiewicz, Jen Mills, Matt Shaffer, Tree Zuzzio
- **Academic Programming** – Ray Feroz, Lynne Fleisher, Gwen Price, Adam Roberts

Each subcommittee should provide actionable items in their recommendations. Each committee will incorporate the Board of Governors three key strategic priorities in their recommendations. Those three priorities are:

- 1) Ensuring Student Success
- 2) Leveraging University Strengths
- 3) Transforming the Leadership/Governance Structure.

Dr. Latour and Dr. Roberts will develop some general Charges for each subcommittee.

The next meeting be will Wednesday, January 9, 2018, 9 a.m., Gemmell Student Center Room 246.