

PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE

The planning committee is here to discuss what the institution needs to do to move forward. They've met with the administrative team and trustees. Now, they're meeting with us to get our feedback.

They hope to provide a road map for the next president. In the past we've had so many presidents that have come up with their own plan and we've started over. This time, we're providing the plan and the new president is going to make it happen.

FIVE CONCEPTUAL AREAS THAT THE CONSULTANTS WANT TO WORK ON

1. College size and structure
2. Campus facility needs
3. Student centeredness
4. Academic mix of programs
5. Financial stability model

Put simply, an institution that switches presidents and provosts every five years is going nowhere. We need stability (which we have not had).

In addition, the consultants have voiced to the trustees that the president hire has only one responsibility—hiring the president (a good president).

Size and Structure

What is our critical mass? If you have less than a thousand, then it seems impossible to build a budget. You can't develop the programs you need to have a global education.

Facility Needs

What's missing from the campus? Think about more than your own department.

Student-Centeredness

Think institutionally. 80 percent of your students' time is outside the classroom. To improve our retention, we need to be thinking about what they're doing outside the classroom.

Academic Mix of Programs

What aren't we doing? Again, think outside your department. A new major with six students won't do anything for the college.

Financial Stability Model

Faculty needs to understand the complexity of it and how it works. If we can't work out the finances, the institution will be stuck as is for twenty+ years. It's a circular process, though, to grow money you need size, student-centeredness, facilities, mix of programs, all of it in order to build finances.

A NOTE ON PROGRAM MIX: Remember, that we need to create programs that draw students into the college. Advocating new programs is not a judgment against current programs. It's creating an opportunity for more students, for faculty to attract teachers to our majors.

Some ideas for new programs: Study abroad, internships (faculty should be paid for supervising them and they should run in the summer), undergraduate research, etc.

FACULTY SENATE DISCUSSION

David Schroeder focused on issue of male dominance in sports and enrollment. Problem of sports being first. Being a drain upon academics. Make campus more gender neutral and less sports centered. Francis: 400 athletes are here no matter what, point though is common denominator... Schroeder points out we're bringing people in purely because of athletics... it's a heavy-load that ends up disappearing because they don't get playing time...

Francis says to combat that you need programs. It's not English, for example, that will attract students. What's missing at Catawba that will bring more students...

Schroeder brings up the idea of creating a day program medical program because that will benefit the entire campus (not just evening programs).

Francis: Campbell, for example, has a pharmacy program... It's a 3/2 program. Three years and you can get into pharmacy. If you don't get into pharmacy then you get something else. Wingate followed that idea... The problem is that pharmacy is expensive to set up and run. A better idea may be setting up a physician assistants program because it isn't as expensive.

Lynn Bolter: How about collaborating with other institutions? Merging programs and students (i.e. Greensboro College and UNCG). Using the Research Campus in Kannapolis...

Gary Freeze: How about Africa? Nobody in NC is tapping into Africa. We should tap into that via a partnership with Livingstone.

Francis: These sorts of things need to surface down at the academic mix of programs level...

Francis: What do you think about college size and structure?

Gary: I think we can go 2,000 students. We have dorm, apartment space, classrooms, etc to accommodate that number of students.

David: All of our income comes through students... We need to grow that base.

Francis: Could the evening program support that growth?

Senate: We have that impression.

David: You know day and evening programs can't take courses outside of their respective programs...

Gary: The administration of the 90s wanted to be like Davidson and wouldn't allow working class people to take day programs or even earn the same degree...

Francis: That's a recipe for bankruptcy... Would you support the blending of day and evening?

Senate: Yes.

Gary: We also need to improve our town vs gown relationship.

Francis: The only way you can have that vision is to have a billion dollar endowment... the vision of Davidson... otherwise you're in trouble.

Consultant: Fundraising will never be your answer... Students will be your answer.

Perspective on Growth: You could probably only grow fifty students a year – it would only take twenty years to grow – don't think in overall number – think in terms of fifty-seventy-five more students a year.

Perspective on Facilities: Your freshman dorm doesn't compare to other schools... You can't sell them on the dormitories... So, you're forced to discount.

David: You're right that we don't have a good living space for students – in terms of dorms, student centers, study areas, etc.

Francis: You're missing student-centeredness in terms of your living space. You improve student-centeredness and you improve college size and you improve financial stability.

Francis: You're center for the environment is underused... it sets their empty... that needs to grow.

Francis: In terms of dorms, you want to avoid building housing until you have a critical mass of students... so turn your juniors and seniors loose until you have the student body to build your dormitories and bring the juniors and seniors back...

Consultant: What do you think of in terms of switch to University?

Senate: We're leery because we don't want to fail at it.

Schroeder: Would minors be a good thing to add? Encouraging more students to minor?

Gary: The provost has been encouraging that.

Schroeder: I think we should encourage people to take minors that are far away from their minors...

Francis: That's fine, but just don't give me a class of four people. You need big programs.