

Task Force 1
January 20, 2015
BCS 30 9:00AM

Today the committee welcomed Julianne Gassman, the Community Engagement Administrative Fellow. Julianne is here currently for half-time, one semester and hopes to be in her position longer to make a strong front door for community engagement.

The group briefly discussed Wes' website link about Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology, and reviewed the minutes of last meeting which will be re-sent to the members as well as the new minutes.

Julianne mentioned that there is a council on campus that focuses on community engagement. They are currently developing a website that relates to their focus. This may be something the committee could look at for ideas and leads.

The committee mainly focused on the current ties that UNI has with the surrounding community and the city, and gave some suggestions to help the ties grow.

Corporate relations

- This could be a place of progress, and there was a suggested need that the progress between corporate relations and UNI needs to grow.
 - BCS building and business incubators help with relations

Girl's State program is up for bids

- This type of program is outside the Cedar Valley area – could bring good benefits.
- Girl's State used to be at UNI, and it may be good to have it here again.
 - Recruitment for future enrollment
 - Getting UNI's name out
- Last time the program was at UNI, there was no follow-up afterwards and did not get recruits
- There is a need to get the higher-ups at UNI to see the benefits of having a program like this on campus.
 - There is a need for it to have top-down organization and a will to do so.

At the last meeting in December, Phil stated that there is a lot of open classroom space on campus. The committee discussed this and noticed that there was not much space in campus buildings that was open for their use.

- The academic spaces on campus need to be allocated better.
- To get maximum usage, everyone has to give a little.
 - If Girl's State new student orientation was at UNI, where do they put it?
- UNI could incorporate an all-campus classroom use calendar to help show the use of spaces for internal groups as well as external groups.

- Could be good for showing community partnership links
- There was a proposal for better data keeping with outside entities at UNI that work with kids to show how many kids end up enrolling at UNI.
 - Suzuki School students

The committee questioned what the finished product from the Task Force was supposed to look like and how it is incorporated into the Master Plan. It was suggested to look at other reports like the UNI Academic Plan and use that as a guide. The use of outside events on campus and goals for them could be good additions to the final report.

Arts and Cultural Enrichment

- UNI School of Music includes many outside entities
 - Community music school
 - Includes Children's Choir
 - Piano lessons
 - Suzuki School
 - Stringed instruments only
 - Approximately 200 students enrolled
 - Teachers include UNI grads and current students.
 - Vital program for UNI
 - High retention rate with Suzuki
 - Cedar Falls Symphony
 - Students get internships, opportunities to play
 - The CFS stays in UNI's building because it's significantly cheaper for them to do so.
- Many people who come here for the school of music to visit have never been to UNI before.
 - It's a good front door
- Iowa Thespian Festivals
 - High schools around Iowa present plays to UNI
 - Come to UNI for learning experience

Educational Development

- ~40,000 kids come to campus every year for events
- Kaleidoscope program
 - Trains students, and visiting teachers.
- Kids get buttons, bookmarks that say UNI on them as a trigger.
- New Horizons group
 - Adult music lessons/band
 - About 90 people in the group

UNI also aids external programs that help with professional development with new programs to help them grow. UNI helps out intensely for a few years, then lets the program grow on its own.

UNI is always there to help with issues in the future. The only compensation UNI needs is a large identification seal in the program book

UNI's current outreaches

- Met Chorale
- Cedar Valley Chamber Music Festival
- Museums with Waterloo?
 - Served in UNI resource fair.
- Holocaust Education
 - UNI has done music concerts for this.
- Lifelong University
 - Adult education that is on and off campus
- The school of music has off-campus presence
 - Bars, storefronts, parks
 - Brings events off of campus as well as into it
- UNI has little to no presence in Waterloo
 - The universities programs need to be where the people are.
 - Limited parking on campus
 - Bussing bill is huge from bussing people from Waterloo and back.
 - Low-income families can't afford to come to campus
 - There is a competitive need.

Art

- There is a gallery that brings students in.
 - Lines up with current art trends
- Brings kids in for art activities
- Faculty artists on display throughout the country.
 - Many people at UNI are unaware of it.

Community service project online inventory

- Very elementary, basic UNI website that shows service projects.
- No new additions to the website until July 1 of each year.
 - It would be significantly more accurate if individuals could put events in as they happen.
- Creates a lot of challenges since its rarely updated.
- A want to make a place where staff and students can record instead of calling several people to get the information they need.
- Quantitative data on the website is bad, qualitative data is non-existent.

Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley

- Office space used every Thursdays
- Good link to community agencies

Community theater groups

- Possible linkages, but it currently very minimal.

Explore UNI-Q space downtown

- Get into community with a space that UNI already owns
- Logistics problems with city kids
 - Expensive bus trips
 - No other way to get on campus
- This could make broad opportunities for everyone, not just one social group.

Internships

- UNI has a lot of crossovers with internships
 - Some are really good and create good connections, and some are just ok.
- It is academic credit for interns, some are paid with a little extra paperwork.

Advancement

- UNI has talked about a new building for key pieces of outside touch points.
- It could be an entry point for community engagement
- UNI is decentralized – beware of the centralized/decentralized pendulum swing

A major barrier that was discussed was faculty get penalized for certain community engagement.

- Currently no standardization
- No rewards for effort
- This could be brought up with the new Provost

UNI and the city could be partners and be a bounce-back for new companies coming to Cedar Falls.

- What does the city want from UNI, and UNI want from the city?
- Do we need someone from the city here on campus?

President Ruud told the Mayor about merging public safety. There is a savings of \$1 million each year with the merge.

- Possibly something to look at regarding partnerships
- City partnerships could be beneficial, but state entities usually bail out on long term projects.

Issues that could be addressed for next time:

- How can the city and UNI work together to make the area around UNI better?
 - Traffic and college kids issues
 - Turning 23rd ST to the university

- There will be a town hall meeting that Julianne addressed regarding community engagement.
 - Friday, April 3rd at 8:30AM
 - Information could add to a rich discussion

Meeting adjourned at 10:25AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, at 9:00AM, and will be switched to the Gallagher-Bluedorn PAC.