Strategic Planning Process – Performing and Working group chairs: Breakfast Meeting with Assistant and Associate Professors

9-25-2012, PSFA 212, 7:45AM-9AM

Dean Joyce presented an overview of the process and where the Creative and Performing Arts Working Group fits within its related Task Force (Research and Creative Endeavors). Timelines and scope were explained by Gattas and working group co-chair, Donna Conaty.

The faculty in attendance were provided the committee's charge and questions used for guiding the working group's consideration of issues.

A discussion followed with the following themes and ideas emerging from the discourse:

Collaborations - internal and external were discussed, with a number of attendees making observations matters related to fostering interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research and curricula.

- Reward system (RTP) does not necessarily value such efforts
- Despite many faculty valuing collaborative/interdisciplinary research and creative activity, current university structures do not reflect such a culture
- School and departments often are working on similar issues, yet often are unaware of one another's progress, ideas and concepts, whether curricular, programmatic or in research endeavors.
- How can collaborative and interdisciplinary research/creative efforts be better reflected in courses that students take?
- Need for multi track paths for students that will enable them to branch out and explore such avenues
- Physical structures of the campus
- Arts are an exemplar of collaborative practice - transferrable skills to other professions. e.g. performers know how to stand up in front of people, improvise if something isn't working, speaking publically. (leadership skills) Artists embrace social issues, questions and examine in a different way - how do we communicate more effectively to decision makers of such values?
- University and campus community can embrace the arts, enable arts to be more visible on campus. suggestion "Decade of the Arts", "flagship CSU in the arts"
- Arts and sciences are not mutually exclusive
- Create campus themes, common topics explored across disciplines, push the thematic element through banners, news releases, publicity etc. Be the university that deals with issues that affect our community

Students- discussion addressed matters relating to determining what models of curriculum, experiences and preparation our graduates need in order to be successful.
• They need skills and knowledge that are adaptable to a constantly changing world
• The liberal arts model does work
• We are preparing students for future jobs that do not currently exist, that will use technology not yet invented.
• Importance of experiencing and understanding the process that underlies creativity, whether artistic creative process or scientific
• Involve more students in project-based learning
• Involve students in performance-based research
• How can we get our curriculum process to adapt more quickly to changes desired by faculty that they believe better meet student needs?
• Students who are creative succeed in their endeavors
• Creative process, imagination, curiosity. Teaching creativity is a process. Sciences do that all the time. It’s about discovery. Imagining a problem and imagining a solution. Failure is a success because it leads to right answer.

**Campus values**- many ideas and concepts overlap, the following relate to areas where SDSU might adapt its practices, create a culture etc.

• Foster creative practice and reflect through university culture
• Use fee structure to enable students to attend academically informed arts and cultural events for free
• Create a central location where arts and creative endeavors can flourish (create synergy through space)
• Embrace the arts as an institution, arts more visible on campus
• Value creativity, innovation, - frequently used terms, however they must also focus on the process - not just an “end product”
• Use innovation, creativity as a theme (with imbedded value of the process)
• We need to embrace our status as an HSI and our location, (proximity to Latin America, Asia etc.)