Present:
Stephen C. Welter, Vice President for Research & Graduate Dean
Joyce Gattas, Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts
Various members of the SDSU community – faculty, staff, students

Opening:
VPR Welter and Dean Gattas opened the meeting by introducing themselves and welcoming all in attendance. VPR Welter then introduced Donna Conaty and Linda Gallo – Creative & Performing Arts Working Group and Research Working Group Co-Chairs (respectively).

VPR Welter provided an overview of the strategic planning process, including the Steering Committee, the various Task Forces, and Working Groups. The RCE Task Force consists of two Working Groups – Research Working Group and Creative & Performing Arts Working Group.

- Goal of the RCE Task Force is to better understand our current status and future aspirations such that we can focus meeting our current goals as well as on larger initiatives SDSU can achieve.

Dean Gattas explained the RCE Task Force responsibilities:

- To focus on specific meaningful and substantial initiatives that will enable SDSU to build on its strengths and focus on innovate collaborative approaches.
- The RCE Task Force and Working Groups will draft two reports and a final document will be forwarded to the Steering Committee who will review the initiatives presented by the RCE.

Questions for each Working Group were handed out to those attending as a means to stimulate ideas or discussions.

1. Over the last 25 years, we have made substantial progress as a research university. What should be the next steps in our development as a research university? What should be our aspirational goals? How should we support the development of nationally and internationally renowned programs? How should our research and creative endeavors be positioned to address regional and national challenges?

Audience Responses/Questions:

- There are different kinds of research universities – e.g., traditional, technology/science model, versus community focused - what kind is SDSU? We need to define what
“research” is according to SDSU and the community. We need to think about rebranding our notion of research.

- We need to educate people about the diversity of research and creative activities taking place on campus.
- The Arts are part of what make SDSU a research university – the community needs to understand this.
- We need to look ahead 5 years and play upon SDSU’s geographical location and its attributes; position ourselves as a leading institution both nationally and internationally (US/Mexico border).
- Some members of the humanities faculty feel that research is prejudiced toward the hard sciences on campus (for example, the Student Research Symposium) – this is what is perceived but not necessarily intentional.
- Collaboration is essential – Arts, Humanities and other creative scholarly disciplines inform the Sciences and vice versa.
- We need to consider alternative administrative/disciplinary boundaries to facilitate integrative, innovative approaches.
- The lines between traditional research and the Arts and Humanities need to be softened.
- Considerable innovation takes place in intersection between disciplines.
- San Diego recently differentiated itself by rebranding as a high-tech region, which is one way SDSU can distinguish itself.
- We need to create a better community through engagement and innovation – create innovative partnerships with the community.
- Faculty should not be choosing between research and teaching – one informs the other.
- Faculty at SDSU are able to do both – they are highly successful at being effective researchers/teachers/scholars.
- Undergraduate students need to be involved more in research – this is difficult with large class sizes.
- Student engagement - we must provide increased opportunities for students who are interested in research.
- It will be important to bring faculty from different disciplines to collaborate on common themes (e.g.: sustainability); use incubators as to bring different disciplines into a common area; Allow students to take courses across disciplines/colleges to obtain an inter-disciplinary degree.
- Create an on-line database for faculty to post their research so as to inform other faculty of their activities, and to alert students to available research opportunities.
- Create “space adjacency” on campus (e.g., Zahn Center and the arts) so that faculty and students can collaborate more easily. People who are like-minded but do different research can be in closer proximity.
Specific National Science Foundation grants encourage collaboration across the disciplines – this creates substantial interest among faculty and relationships can be sustained. Although these grants are competitive, they can ultimately transform a program.

2. Substantial infrastructure is required to support research and creative endeavors. This infrastructure includes library resources, facilities, equipment and administrative support services. Criteria of RPT need to be reviewed in support of cross disciplinary, collaborative initiatives. How can we invest in infrastructure so that our investments have the largest possible effect on our research mission?

3. 

- Faculty need more protected time to conduct research away from teaching.
- We need to determine efficient, realistic types and sources of support.
- We don’t have the budget or the resources to adequately accommodate faculty and undergraduate students in all areas. Consequently, we are forced to make trade-offs between areas – may need to focus our resources and research into specific areas.
- SDSU’s library is critically deficient in research support materials. Many faculty and students defer to UCSD’s library.

VPR Welter and Dean Gattas thanked everyone for attending and providing vital input.

Meeting concluded.