



Strategic PLANNING

All-Group Meeting Notes

July 11, 2007

The five strategic planning Work Groups were joined by the Resource Team and Alumni Association guests Sam Stagliano, Board president, and John Bachmeier, director of Alumni Relations.

Chancellor Levin-Stankevich welcomed the Work Groups, thanking them for their hard work and commitment during the summer. In light of recent legislative developments that feature potential financial cuts to the university budget and a Wisconsin Policy Research Institute Report calling for more accountability by System he said strategic planning has never been more critical. He challenged the group to continue to think creatively but to be aware that we will need to make choices and set priorities.

MJ Brukaradt asked each Work Group to briefly present their key ideas, followed by Q&A. [Reports are available at <http://www.uwec.edu/chancellor/stratplan/updates.htm>]. Group 3 asked for suggestions of key community members to involve in focus groups, which are being scheduled for summer and fall.

A separate group of faculty has been working independently to develop ideas around creating an environmental studies program at UW-Eau Claire. Paula Kleintjes Neff, representing the group, presenting a brief summary of the group's work, much of which complements ideas being formulated by several of the strategic planning groups. A summary of the environmental studies group is also available online.

The chancellor concluded the large-group meeting by expressing his excitement at the range of ideas and many common themes that united all the groups. The idea of immersing students in a learning experience cut across several groups, especially an experience that is inter-disciplinary and experiential. He encouraged groups to explore the development of institute or centers as cost-effective ways to provide better integration of learning and to enhance institutional reputation.

The need for professional development was also vital to many of the proposals, so that faculty and staff have the skills to create the kind of university we aspire to. A critical necessity for all the proposals is a culture change at the university, to move from one that values the status quo to one that embraces change and is willing to try new ways of operating. The chancellor also recognized the importance of creating a campus climate that supports faculty and staff.

The chancellor also addressed the issue of budget constraints. He asked the Work Groups to be realistic as they draft proposals, recognizing an environment in which funding is not likely to expand. Adopting new ideas will require making choices with existing programs and practices.

The Work Groups then met individually for additional planning.

