

From: Summers, Greg
Subject: Academic Affairs Update, 05-04-21 (Request for Feedback on Academic Plan)
Date: Tuesday, May 04, 2021 3:44:39 PM
Attachments: [Academic Affairs Outcomes and Strategies, 05-04-21.pdf](#)

Colleagues,

As you know, we've begun work this semester on crafting an Academic Plan. Chancellor Gibson has requested a five-year strategic plan for the university that develops specific outcomes and strategies from the Purpose Made Possible goals recently affirmed by Common Council. Hence, our divisional strategic plan will comprise the outcomes and strategies we will pursue within Academic Affairs to contribute to the institution's goals. I'm writing today to ask your input on the outcomes we might seek to achieve.

UW-Stevens Point is an outstanding university, and we serve our students well. Yet we all know that gaps remain between the academic programs, experiences, and support we offer and what we wish we could do for our students. So, in the spirit of continuous improvement, as we consider our strategic outcomes for the next five years, it makes sense to prioritize actions that most directly address these gaps.

Over the past several weeks, our steering committee and various stakeholder groups have had good discussions on this topic. A few examples of the kinds of issues we have surfaced:

- We promise students that UW-Stevens Point will help them "discover their purpose." Yet too many students spend their first year in courses largely disconnected from their career ambitions, putting them at risk for losing momentum. Can we ensure that every first-year student gets faculty engagement and coursework that explicitly connects their education with their future purpose, helping them to explore career options and confirm their choice of major?
- Not every student graduates having had an internship or applied professional learning experience outside the classroom. Can we guarantee that they do?
- We say that lifelong learning is a priority, yet most of our programs are structured for young traditional students straight from high school. Can we adapt to offer select programs specifically tailored to adult learners looking to rediscover their purpose through education?
- We live in an increasingly diverse society, and yet we know that our campus community is not as inclusive as it could be. How can we improve our recruitment of underrepresented faculty, staff, and students and eliminate achievement gaps in student success?

Please find attached a draft of our proposed Academic Affairs outcomes and strategies. By this Friday, May 7, I ask that you [use this brief survey to provide feedback](#). The chancellor has requested that we prioritize our efforts this spring on devising actions for Year 1 of the plan,

which begins next fall. In the draft, **these outcomes and strategies are highlighted in yellow**. We will have additional time early in the fall semester to refine our longer-term planning. As a result, the survey seeks input on both the Year 1 outcomes and strategies and those that are longer term.

This is a moment to think outside our familiar habits and practices, and to imagine actions that would make UW-Stevens Point truly distinct from other universities. Because we can't simply spend money to solve problems, it is also a moment to consider what we're truly willing to change. Feel free to submit more than one response to the survey and to comment both on the outcomes we've included and those we might have missed.

I am grateful for your participation in this exercise, and I look forward to seeing your ideas.

Thanks very much.

Greg

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