SPARC II
Interview Team with the Unit of Academic Affairs
Friday, April 8, 2011

SPARC Team Members: Jose da Cruz, Kara Greene, Jackie Kim, and Becky Smith

Academic Affairs Team Members Present:
Interim Vice President Anne Thompson
Dean Laura Barrett, College of Liberal Arts
Dean Shelley Conroy, College of Health Professions
Dean Patricia Wachholz, College of Education
Dr. Delana Nivens, Representing the College of Science and Technology
Ms. Anne Fuller, Representing Lane Library
Ms. Melanie Mirande, Representing the Liberty Center
Dr. Jim Anderson, Representing International Studies
Mr. Andy Clark, Representing Enrollment Services
Dr. Theresa Winterhalter, Representing Faculty Development

Dr. Jose da Cruz opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. He discussed the procedures for this meeting. He started the meeting with this request:

1) Please tell us the current initiatives of your college/department and how they address the new university strategic plan.

2) What challenges/obstacles have you encountered while implementing your initiatives?

Anne Thompson began the discussion by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

She stated that SPARC II is in an information gathering mode – looking at what we as a university are doing and our purposes. The new Strategic Plan has developed a new mission, values, and goals. We need to look at what we are currently doing - how it shapes and adapts to the new Plan, fitting together these together.
**Dean Shelley Conroy: College of Health Professions**

The current strategic plan for the College of Health Professions is for 2007-2012. The COHP developed a five-year Strategic Plan and in 2012, a new COHP Strategic Plan will be written. A Task Force was formed to see what the College could do to match their college strategic plan to the new university strategic plan. They found that their core values matched up; they are currently re-aligning their initiatives with the university’s five goals. They are putting together a new draft of the five-year plan. A missing piece is the Enrollment Management piece which will include RPG for health professions and new traditions for health professions.

**Dean Laura Barrett: College of Liberal Arts**

Dean Barrett asked the department heads to come up with their own strategic plans. They looked at what they are already doing – they are delivering core classes to undergraduate students.

There are several concerns already being addressed by the COLA including graduation rate – to improve graduation there are several first year experience classes being offered throughout the college.

COLA has stressed the importance of advising within the college and departments.

Increase transformative experiences –

* The Honors Program – at the present time there is not much attachment to the program. There needs to be additional freshmen and sophomore experiences.

* Pilot communities

* Fund-raising for the college (with assistance of VP Joyner)

* Leadership Program – an Honors component

* Reduce the number of part-time instructors and increase the number of full-time tenure track instructors.

* Increase the number of grant possibility and summer research stipend opportunities for faculty.

**Dean Patricia Wachholz: College of Education**

The COE will hold a visionary retreat on May 18th – to help the COE line up with the university strategic plan.

In reference to Goal #1 – Student Success: the college has two freshmen learning communities in conjunction with health and PE. The two components are:
*fitness and wellness

*teachers

Graduate assistants will be used for tutoring assistance.

In University Hall the COE has developed a Center for Student Services to include services to the students in areas of:

* internship;

* clinical experience;

* advising; and

* a certification officer

They are currently offering workshops for GACE testing (areas of social studies and math).

Goals #3 and #5 – Technology and Visibility:

Due to the fact that the ETC funding went away; the college is working with the school districts in the area of professional development. Currently, they are working with Beach High School and Groves High School providing professional development to new teachers.

The college has recently developed the Educational Technology Training Center. This addresses visibility and partnerships with the community.

The National Writing Project was not funded by the federal government, so the college is writing grants hoping to get funding for this project.

**Dr. Delana Nivens: The College of Science and Technology**

In 2008 when the school became a college, they started developing a strategic plan. Due to the turnover of staff, this has been an on-going effort – four of the six departments have strategic plans. They have all been tasked to take their plans and align them with the university strategic plan.

The COST in some areas has stopped lecturing and is actively engaging students in research. They have instituted peer mentoring and peer observation of all non-tenured and tenured faculty.

The COST faculty is re-working some of the degree tracts; they are also re-working their advisement process. They are engaged in providing a transformative educational experience to their majors.

Goal #3 – Technology
Their computer labs are assessable to students; they have added a $300,000 piece of equipment. Technology is in place.

The faculty serving over 100 advisees their major.

The COST faculty is improving RPG.

**Dr. Jim Anderson: International Services**

The departmental strategic plan follows the university plan.

Goal #1 gives a pattern that touches all colleges.

The department hopes to increase student involvement in study abroad programs—especially the number of students in the fields of science/technology and education going abroad.

Currently they have engaged a good number of COLA students—over 200 are going abroad this summer. The department is increasing the university’s presence abroad.

One of the departmental goals is to increase the use of faculty abroad participation by means of Skype lectures and short faculty exchanges.

Another goal is to find a way to internationalize our faculty—we need more opportunities for the classroom and for faculty development internationally. The department wants to help get the faculty and administration overseas and take people with them to do training.

An additional goal is to increase overseas partnerships and bring overseas scholars to the campus.

**Mr. Andy Clark: Enrollment Services**

Enrollment Services has drafted an Enrollment Management Plan. The plan includes recruiting, and admission standards with profiles for success in RPG.

The department hopes to visit other metropolitan areas to get students to come to us.

Minimum admission ACT scores have been increased by 10 points for next fall.

Financial Aid addresses Goals 1 and 3. ITS is helping enrollment services with improving processes.

The Ambassador Program is a true representation of students with high expectations.

Goals 1, 2, 3 will be addressed by Degree Works. This is a technology solution for advising. It is a degree advising tool for faculty—helping to eliminate advising errors and additional student debt.
Institutional Research will help departments to meet their goals.

**Dr. Theresa Winterhalter: Faculty Development**

Goals 2 and 3: Grants Competition – strengthen teaching

Faculty forums – place for conversations to address concerns of the university.

   Ex. FACE evaluations

New initiatives:

*Development of Reading / Learning Roundtables

(Need: QEP)

*Collaborative research among different departments and faculty members

*Help develop an intellectual community among faculty members

*Build strategic goals

*Create space to get faculty outside the classroom – need visibility in the academic community

Goal 2 – The development of faculty – Peer Visitation of classrooms

Goal 3 – Faculty Forum – GIS

Faculty development – self start – self operating – find way into four colleges

**Ms. Ann Fuller: Lane Library**

The Library’s division priorities are:

- Increasing students acquisition of information literacy abilities
- Improving assessment of library services
- Building print, media, and electronic collections to support student learning and faculty teaching and research
- Designing spaces and services to promote student learning in individual and group settings
- Creating library space and services that help make Armstrong an “institution of choice” (Goal 2)

To achieve the priorities the Library has:

- One librarian will teach an information literacy class as part of the First Year Experience
• Proposal to base QEP on information literacy
• Great feedback from faculty on class presentations
• Instant messaging and text reference service for students (also face book and blogs)
• Subscription to ebrary online books
• Films on demand – (faculty lectures for students)
• Steady growth in visits to the library up nearly 10% this year
• Develop faculty session to promote/update the campus about resources

Ms. Melanie Miranda: The Liberty Center

At the time of this meeting and writing, The Liberty Center was in search of a director. A new director has since been hired: Dr. Don Stumpf. He will assume his duties as of June 1st. This director will help the Liberty Center fit/define the Liberty Center in the new strategic plan.

The LC currently has about 250 students; all part-time faculty; and limited course offerings

They are currently looking for way to bring processes consistent and advising consistent with the main campus.

Goals:

• Increase the number of degrees

• Advising is now being done by a staff person; they want to make sure the students have access to all campus services and discover their long-term goals.

• They need to coordinate with all the main campus departments. Each college is different – the Liberty Center could benefit from on-line classes.

The perception among Hinesville’s constituents has been that the Liberty Center will close. The Center does still have the community support of Hinesville. The Mayor and City Manager have been part of the search for the new LC director. They have expressed the desire for a commitment for a downtown building – they are coming to us now but could possibly go to another school if we do not commit.

The Liberty Center has the option to be a non-traditional arm of Armstrong – reaching out to the non-traditional student.

Obstacles/Challenges: All representatives were given an opportunity to voice obstacles/challenges they are experiencing in their areas:
CST:
- There is a purging of young star faculty for larger salaries
- Lab space – all labs are full, not enough space for offerings needed for fall

COHP
- Need a new modern state of the art HP building and equipment/replacement equipment;
- Currently in four different buildings – the main building is over 40 years old and will not support current technology;
- They are using outdated equipment;
- Inter-disciplinary simulation laboratories are needed to develop critical thinking skills to develop student success;
- Need a college-based advisement center; they have 1300 pre-program students and have encountered advisement problems;
- Improved faculty work-load for graduate faculty;
- Establish a college-based advisement center with dedicated advisors; and
- Continue to promote pedagogically appropriate use of technology and online course development

COE
- Pre-education advisement needs – only have one advisor in the building that houses their advisement center; need advise at the very beginning of school for appropriate courses
- Need better classroom technology – current technology is not up-to-date with field experience classroom technology

COLA
- Gamble Hall needs renovation;
- Director of 1st Year Experience;
- Funds for faculty traveling & research;
- New hiring positions.

LC
- Needs to define its vision as it relates to campus new mission, vision, and values
- Need additional space

International Studies
- More staff support for the office (the current office staff is one person plus the Director);
- Foundation money to increase the number of students going abroad (scholarships); and
- Housing for international scholars visiting the campus
Lane Library

- Short one faculty position – Media Services (critical to student success);
- Lack of money for collections basic supplies;
- The Library is not always viewed as part of the core educational function of the university;
- Belief among some is that technology obviates the need for libraries and library services; and

Enrollment Services

- Records retention and security (perhaps a new management position: Chief Privacy Officer (CPO))
- Staff flexibility during peak times and funds to hire additional part-time staff during critical times (registration and advisement)