SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLANNING 2017-18
REPORTING TEMPLATE
ROUTING: EACH SCHOOL AND UNIT WILL HAVE ITS OWN PROCESS, AFTER WHICH ONE DIVISION-WIDE DOCUMENT
WILL BE CREATED FOR EACH DIVISION. FINAL DOCUMENTS FROM EACH DIVISION TO BE SUBMITTED TO
strategic@sonoma.edu BY MARCH 1, 2018.

Contact person: Jacob Yarrow and Becky Cale

Department/unit: GMC

Division: ☒ Green Music Center
☐ Academic Affairs
☐ Administration and Finance
☐ Advancement
☐ Student Affairs

In each section, please list the most-supported or frequently mentioned ideas first, followed by a section on “other ideas.”

1. ASSESSMENT: What do we do well at SSU? What makes us proud?

Frequently mentioned/supported ideas:

- Academic programs and physical space have grown
- SSU has various programs that support students (counseling, EOP, student services, Wine Business, Nursing, and extracurricular activities) – not a lot of large universities offer individualized attention to help students thrive
- Many opportunities for student development through jobs, internships and educational outlets
- Strong support for student endeavors
- Faculty are doing exciting work
- We are improving student engagement through programming at the Green Music Center – also offering more multicultural programming
- We engage in and are responsive to feedback and suggestions at the GMC
- The GMC puts on great events
- The Green Music Center helps support Sonoma State in having more notoriety

Other ideas (either less frequently mentioned or less robustly supported):

- Employee retention is good (employees are valued, great benefits packages)
- SSU has great Dorms
People like visiting the campus – groundskeepers and facility maintenance do an amazing job
Students come to SSU because of smaller class sizes
Safe learning and working environment
We are positively regarded in the local press
Increase in staff/faculty that are SSU Alumni
We are offering different avenues for use of the space at the Green Music Center

2. IMPROVEMENT: What can we do better at SSU?

*Please note with an * the ideas to which your group assigned an asterisk (indicating that the unit/department could help to make improvement in this area)

Frequently mentioned/supported ideas:

- Integration and engagement with the community and surrounding communities needs strengthening – better connection between the city of Rohnert Park and Sonoma State University*
- We need to attract a more diverse community (student body, faculty, staff, etc.)*
- Increase alumni relations and school pride*
- Improve classroom facilities – upgrade and standardize technology
- Offer more classes that are needed for students to graduate
- Involve stakeholders in decision making
- Increase creativity*
- Improve sustainability measures*

Other ideas (either less frequently mentioned or less robustly supported):

- More programmatic bridges with Santa Rosa Junior College
- Change outdated rules (students should be able to work more than 20 hours/week)
- Ask what we can do to help retain people to live in Sonoma County*
- Improve faculty and student relations – increase commitments and support for students
- Offer more internship opportunities with local businesses and organizations to the entire campus (not just the school of business and economics)
- Improve and share communication about facilities and how to make improvements
- Improve follow through with commitments and improvements
3. INNOVATION: What do we want to do at SSU that we don’t do now to make the university better?

Frequently mentioned/supported ideas:

- Improve and increase shared spaces – redesign quad, more involvement in community garden, provide outdoor classroom space and places to sit outside, create spaces for student clubs to gather
- Create interdisciplinary teams and utilize the opportunity to improve connections
- Increase and provide faculty, management, professional development, and equity training in order to motivate faculty, staff and students
- Streamline processes
- Increase transparency with regards to budget decisions and how resources are allocated
- Teach faculty, students, and staff how to create movements of change
- Ask that all freshman come to the Green Music Center as part of their first year experience at Sonoma State
- Provide food at the GMC for music students, faculty, and staff who are here for a long duration of the day

Other ideas (either less frequently mentioned or less robustly supported):

- Get SSU community (faculty, students, and staff) to interact more
- Require professors and teachers to regularly re-evaluate their syllabus to reflect findings in the strategic planning process
- Improve trust between staff and faculty (foster a collaborative environment instead of a competitive setting)
- Redefine liberal arts as interdisciplinary
4. ADAPTING AND CHANGING: What might we stop doing or do differently to change, innovate and improve at SSU?

*Please note with an * the ideas to which your group assigned an asterisk (indicating that the unit/department could help to make improvement in this area)

Frequently mentioned/supported ideas:

- Decrease environmentally harmful measures – use less paper, use less water for lawns, etc.*
- Stop competition between staff and faculty
- Decrease the culture of silos*
- Stop being closed minded to new ideas – stop saying “we’ve never done that” or “we will never do that”

Other ideas (either less frequently mentioned or less robustly supported):

- Stop raising student fees