

Beyond Boundaries Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Library Multipurpose Room

Committee participants: Albright, Barrett, Blieszner, Bordas, Dalloul, Cowan, Edgar, Grant, Hall, Harrison, House, Keown, Khansa, Knox, Lockee, Martin, McAvoy, Meng, Morrill, Perillo, Pratt, Raman, Rikakis, Sible, Treacy, Tront, Verniel, Watford, Wisnioski,

Staff and graduate students: Camargo, Edwards, Harder, Hincker, Hundley, Keeney, Miller, Ridenour, Ridinger, Walz

Guests: Menah Pratt-Clarke, Tracy Vosburgh

The meeting began at 2:00pm with welcoming remarks from Dr. Grant. Project Director, Kate Keeney, reminded the group of the goals for the initiative and the agenda to be covered in today's meeting. The committee would hear from the co-chairs of each thematic group. Following the presentations, the Steering Committee would engage in discussion and sharing of overlapping themes.

Committee Reports

Preparing students

Matt Wisnioski and Jill Sible shared the work of their group. The group sees the following as givens for the university over the next 30 years: more global; more mobile; more technology; more specialized but more connected. Students will change but purpose and meaning will remain important. They discussed communities of discovery. The group recognizes that "silos" of excellence currently exist at the university--some students have the advantage of learning across disciplines. The goal would be for all students to have these opportunities with students earning a living transcript that reflects a breadth of education and engagement.

Advancing as a global land-grant

Paul Knox with Chris Barrett, joining the meeting remotely, first described what is meant by a global land-grant. What makes Virginia Tech special is that we have established a legacy of disciplines which we don't see changing. Over the next 30 years we would develop a broader network system with many partnerships to include other universities both in the U.S. and abroad, research institutions, corporations, etc. The characteristics for these would include flexibility and problem-driven. In 30 years, there would be a fully distributed system.

Envisioning the campus of the future

Kathryn Albright with Sanjay Raman, joining the meeting remotely, began sharing their group's work by pointing out that creating a culture of creativity, collaboration, and innovation would occur over the next 30 years. Their concept of the campus of the future would support human-to-human interaction across a spectrum of environments which would remain flexible; be

comprised of complex heterogeneous networks and innovation hubs facilitated by technology; be global; and be adaptable. They see innovation hubs being established as well as human-centered smart environments/virtual environments, and global engagement hubs. These hubs would not be permanent fixtures but rather ephemeral. As such, continuous assessment and adaptation is important.

Discovering new funding models

Lara Khansa provided an overview of this group's work. The group began with the understanding that state funds will drop more in the future, and new funding mechanisms will be needed to invest in new programs. Revenue generation ideas and income strategies were considered to include philanthropic strategies, budgetary savings, and innovative approaches that would generate additional revenues without increasing tuition.

After a short break, Dr. Blieszner began a discussion by sharing themes she noted in the presentations such as: identifying boundaries; mapping values; flexible systems; cultural shifts (much broader than what we do now); engagement; working with internal and external partners to identify problems and solutions; the need for holistic approach; and recognizing our cultural values.

Members of the Steering Committee provided comments including the following:

- Adaptability and flexibility will be critical; however, in some disciplines there will still be a need for highly trained professionals and specializations.
- Other universities are doing something similar to our Beyond Boundaries Project. What is unique and bold about Virginia Tech?
- Communication is important (ex. health education program already very broad but not widely known.)
- A current boundary between the university and the private sector exists. It's difficult to resource ideas that are generated.
- A degree program that exists among many departments (IGEPs/iPhD)
- It would be revolutionary, if all students had the excellent experience that some have in our current model.
- iPhone analogy—Virginia Tech is more than an education.

Provost Rikakis charged the Steering Committee to think more boldly and to build a scenario describing the student and faculty experience within the context that we have imagined.

Next steps were noted to include a presentation to the Board of Visitors on March 20; Steering Committee Meetings, March 25 and April 21; and forum in the NCR, March 31.