International Program Task Force Meeting
December 18, 2009

Three sub-committees were formed from last meeting (12.11.08) to discuss the vision statement, mission statement, and core values of the International Program at TAMU-CC. Each group’s statement was presented to the entire committee for suggestions and changes. The final statements are presented first, followed by a partial transcript of the committee’s discussions regarding these statements.

VISION STATEMENT

Constructing a future without boundaries - building bridges in a changing world

MISSION STATEMENT

TAMU-CC is dedicated to creating an inclusive community and establishing collaborative relationships across cultures. TAMU-CC aspires to enrich and educate without exclusion and foster responsible global citizenship. The institution will promote international learning environments that embrace diversity.

CORE VALUES


Vision Statements

Sub-committee 1
Embracing a future without boundaries

Comments: Wanted to use the word “embrace”: a sense of being comfortable, natural, effortless; mobility, communication are key

Sub-committee 2
Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi as a microcosm of the emerging world

Questions: Why are we here as a group? What does the university want?
Comments: Thinking of the “flat world” and globalization. What we wanted the world to look like in the future; wanted to mirror an emerging world that is spiked and we, TAMU-CC, should be one of those spikes.

Sub-committee 3
The Island University that’s a link to the world
The Globalizing Island University
Globalizing the Island

Comments: Started off with “mirroring” and ended up with “globalization.” Island gives an impression of isolation – we wanted a bridge – this island will represent the entire world.

General Discussion of Vision Statements

Karen M: How can we integrate the three statements?

Martin: vision statement needs to be snappy but leave an impression in peoples’ minds. We need to include “university” in the vision statement.

Globalization is frightening to a lot of people – key feature of TAMU-CC is that it’s an island – sense of bringing the rest of the world to the island.

Globalization has different meanings to different people.

Embracing ➔ Linking, bridging (‘bridging’ implies a two-way street)
“Enriching the island, embracing the world”
“Linking to the world, enriching the Island University” (What would a foreigner think ‘enrich’ means?)
“without boundaries” (students, teachers move in, move out)
“Building bridges to the emerging world” (‘emerging’ – action oriented, about the world changing, implies Third World)
“Building bridges to the dynamic world” or “Building bridges in a changing world”

Ana B: We’re getting too technical

A vision statement is intended for an internal constituency; it is rare to change the vision statement, although one can make minor changes.

“Constructing a future without boundaries”
“Building bridges in a changing world” (Bridges imply access, not interaction.)
“Constructing a future without boundaries” (our futures?)
Change the word ‘boundaries’ to ‘barriers’ or ‘borders.’
Using the word ‘boundaries’ is better than ‘borders.’
Committee’s final decision

Constructing a future without boundaries - building bridges in a changing world

Mission Statements

Sub-committee 1

The International Program at TAMU-CC serves as a unified voice and resource for our students, faculty and staff, and the community-at-large. We will provide a learning environment that enables our constituencies to develop long-term collaborative relationships. These boundary-less relationships will serve to enrich, educate and entertain our South Texas communities and our Latin American neighbors.

Comments: A few words/phrases that we thought were important: unified, resources, community-at-large, constituencies, long-term collaborative relationships, boundary-less. “Community at-large,” meaning the entire world. We wanted to define “relationships.” Enriching the community and connecting it to South Texas and Latin America.

Sub-committee 2

TAMU-CC is dedicated to creating an inclusive community (local, national, and international) where no one is excluded. The University creates and supports an environment where students, faculty, and staff interact, and where they understand and accept the many cultural values that we represent. The institution will open up international boundaries, prepare students to thrive in a global world, and support interaction among diverse cultures.

Comments: The notions of “inclusion” and “exclusion” were very important. International students are not mainstreamed here. Having the office in place where students can interact with the campus environment [is good]. What the university should be like? Question of diversity, internationalizing the campus as a whole.

Sub-committee 3

The international programs will support multicultural learning, and enhance the educational experience of the students and faculty through a culturally diverse environment, a globalized curriculum, international exchanges, promoting intercultural understanding, extending the reputation of the University to the rest of the world and promotion of responsible global citizenship.

Comments: We wanted the phrase “responsible global citizenship.”
General Discussion of Mission Statements

Karen M.: These [comments from statement 3] sound like strategic objectives, which would be good later on, after the mission statement.

Do not like the part that stresses the S. Texas and Latin American communities in the first mission statement—too narrow—[these communities] are implied in the university’s mission statement. We can have collaboration for relationships, but emphasize “inclusion” somewhere.

Link “these boundaries” statement in the first mission statement to the “communities where no is excluded” in the 2nd mission statement:

“These relationships will serve to enrich, educate and entertain our communities where no one is excluded”

“These relationships will serve to enrich, educate and entertain a boundary-less world where no one is excluded”

“These relationships will serve to enrich and educate our communities without exclusion and foster responsible global citizenship”

“Unified voice bringing all elements of the university together”

Committee’s final decision

TAMU-CC is dedicated to creating an inclusive community and establishing collaborative relationships across cultures. TAMU-CC aspires to enrich and educate without exclusion and foster responsible global citizenship. The institution will promote international learning environments that embrace diversity.

Core Values

Sub-committee 1

Excellence in Leadership
Cooperation and Teamwork
Integrity & Ethics
Service to others
Creative and innovative problem solving

Comments: Started with “What the university will look like in 2015?”
Sub-committee 2

Inclusion
Acknowledgment
Understanding
Embracing
Accessibility
Trans-culturalism [sic]
Respect

Sub-committee 3

Promote and learn from diversity
Celebrate diversity
Produce responsible global citizens
Mutual cultural understanding
Overcome cultural barriers
Provide international opportunities and experiences
Promote international collaboration
Embrace globalization

General Discussion of Core Values

Karen M.: Core values: what we value the most

Robert N.: What you honor most as you implement your mission; it’s about integrity

Karen M.: How we behave with each other…dignity, respect, compassion

Build core values around the university name:

T – Trans-cultural (tolerance)
A – Accessibility, agile, adaptable
M – Multiplicity
U – Understanding and respect
C – Collaboration (cooperation)
C – Community (creativity)
Committee’s final decision

Community
Inclusion
Collaboration
Citizenship
Diversity
Respect
Excellence

Motion by Dr. Nelsen to require insurance for international students. Motion passed by task force.

Marty mentioned the literacy council and who will come in to assist the ESLI students.

Next meeting January 8th

Continue in small groups by topic subject area to develop measurable action items.

Meeting minutes submitted January 22, 2009