

St. Olaf College

SRAP Steering Committee Meeting Notes: November 9, 2017

By: Aase
Date: November 9, 2017
Time: 7:30am – 9:45am

Project Name: SRAP
Location: TOH255

Attendees: Hanson Dressen Sortor
 Walter Weaver Beld
 Lembke King Dietz

Others Present: Aase

Absent:

Discussion

The suggestion box submissions to date have been summarized and distributed to PLT and the SRAP Steering Committee. The non-instructional and the instructional cover letters, questionnaires, and data sets have been distributed. The due dates are December 1, 2017 and February 18, respectively.

General discussion included:

- How is SRAP being understood? People are worried about “passing the SRAP test.” The challenge is that for the most part, this process is not a pass/fail process but rather a search for efficiencies and optimal allocation of available resources for optimal allocation—both within each unit and across all units. This is not an exam, it is a research process; you look at data, develop a hypothesis, and explore and test it. We need to understand the programs we are examining before we develop a final rubric. This is iterative.
- Is a rubric the most transparent means of communication? Roberta presented a rubric to help with comparisons. The Steering Committee recommends we publish a clear statement about rubrics/ways of thinking about information. This should be the same for the Instructional and Non-Instructional Committees, and it should come out before Dec. 1.
- How does Steering Committee communicate its processes? How we will come to look at these sources of information will evolve as we work with the information.
- Questionnaire discussion and completion. Suspend departments’ annual reports in lieu of SRAP? Can we set aside Community Time? This may not be possible at this point in the term. Can chairs/directors and associate deans identify deputies to carry on while they are absent? Can we gather some times during interim? Is there time Thursday/Friday of finals week? Staff members feel the timeline is tight but they are used to working on tight timelines.
- Non-instructional units want to include appendices, which the committee will accept. The N-I Committee will interview all budget managers to help clarify matters and elicit good ideas.
- Drop-in sessions are continuing.
- Roberta described an exercise of posing the question: “Imagine you have to cut one position. What are you going to do differently?” While not all ideas were great ones, by the end of the exercise people were beginning to think creatively.
- How do we describe and maintain the Value Proposition: financial independence, professional accomplishment, personal fulfillment? Partly, the college has addressed this by releasing lots of data

about results, Piper Center opportunities, keeping tuition low, meeting student need and minimizing student debt, and the First Destination results. There is a strong link between these and the successful fulfilment of our Mission Statement.

- Keep focus on community building and how we nurture the community through change.

Next Steps/Agenda

- Look at value propositions

Next Meeting(s)

- Tuesday, November 21, 7:30am – 8:45am, TOH255