

Fullerton College Planning Symposium

Spring 2016 – May 6, 2016

Summary

On Friday, May 6, 2016, Fullerton College hosted its Spring 2016 Planning Symposium. Sixty participants representing students, faculty, classified staff, managers, and administration attended. The half-day symposium covered two current topics of interest to the campus community: 1) the college mission and 2) college measurement and monitoring of institutional effectiveness. The symposium was facilitated by the Office of Institutional Research and Planning staff.

During the first activity of the day participants discussed the work and purpose of the college. The following questions were posed: Why do we exist as a college? What is our purpose? Participants responded that we exist to serve our students and our community. We serve our students by providing resources for them to meet their educational goals, personal growth objectives, and professional development needs. The college also provides students with hope and a pathway to becoming positive members of the community. With respect to the community, participants noted the college seeks to meet the educational needs of our community by providing access and inspiration to pursue educational opportunities. It was the sense of the group as a whole that Fullerton College's mission does not accurately reflect our current state and comprehensive approach towards meeting the individual needs of our students and assisting them on their own paths to success. Additionally, participants engaged in discussion on what values should govern our work both directly with students, as well as campus wide. Below is a list of values derived from that discussion.

Student	Campus
Equity	Integrity
Access	Honesty
Student-centered	Transparency
Respect	Empathy
Individual needs	Compassion
Health & wellness	Innovation
Student success	Commitment
Diversity	Service-centered
	Equity
	Diversity
	Collaboration
	Evaluation

The first activity ended with a conversation about what Fullerton College does best and what unique value it provides to students. Through the conversation participants acknowledged Fullerton College excels at inspiring and instilling confidence in students to reach their potential, provides high quality instruction, and has established supported pathways to the help students reach their individual educational and career goals.

The second activity of the day focused on the current institutional effectiveness processes of the college and how we can improve the reporting, monitoring, and overall coordination of these efforts. Participants were provided an overview of institutional effectiveness, its main components, and the model for institutional effectiveness processes. They were then asked questions regarding our current processes, how they aid us in reviewing the college mission and goals, and how to improve the process and our communication regarding institutional effectiveness. Through the discussion it was apparent that Fullerton College has many departments and programs that regularly evaluate the effectiveness of their activities, either through the program review and accreditation self-evaluation processes or other regular mechanisms, and the college overall monitors its effectiveness through the annual Institutional Effectiveness report and accompanying reporting, but a coordinated and systematic process for bringing together all of these activities does not exist. It was noted that a campus-wide discussion is needed on what institutional effectiveness means to Fullerton College and how it should be measured and monitored from a macro level, with specific interest in having those concepts adopted throughout department and program-level evaluations.

Next Steps

The notes from this symposium were presented to the President's Advisory Council at the May 11, 2016 meeting. It was decided that during the Fall 2016 semester Fullerton College will continue conversations on revising the college mission statement and the campus-wide process to do so. Additionally, as a result of discussions on the coordination of institutional effectiveness efforts at the planning symposiums and in other shared governance meetings across campus, President Greg Schulz sent a letter requesting assistance from an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative Partnership Resource Team. It is anticipated the PRT visit will take place during the 2016-2017 academic year.