

12-12-2019
Dean Q&A Notes

Notes will be provided to staff via the ESAC website after checking completeness and correctness with Dean Scranton.

1. Strategic plan revision and timeline? New dean's role, if any?
 - a. Just finished our strategic planning process in May so already in a nice position with a strong foundation as we engage with the college to update and fine tune the plan.
 - b. Provost Fuentes kicked off new SP process with 4 key areas (Student Success, Research, DEI and Collaboration, and Engagement); we had 4, mostly lining up (Student Success, Research, Engagement, and Advancement)
 - i. DEI initiatives were infused throughout our previous SP, and will provide the starting point for this area
 - ii. Advancement was an area of our current SP that will be combined with Engagement in the revised SP
 - iii. Colleges go first, then university will collate and collaborate for university plan
 - iv. First draft of ours due in February; deadline for final revision is May
 - v. Committee to revise SP headed by Associate Deans Grosland and Udaykumar; includes staff Cathy Koebrick, Matt McLaughlin, Rachel Marek, Megan Allen
 - c. Listening Post held on Tuesday (12/10/2019); next listening post for faculty and staff regarding draft in January
 - d. New dean's role?
 - i. Will have opportunity to imprint on the plan, as it's living document
2. Targeted research areas in SP—how will those be developed?
 - a. First round called for ideas from faculty in one-page format
 - i. For strategic and focused investment that will influence hiring decisions and connect with university's Path Forward
 - ii. 5 research areas still in draft form, but will send those out at a later date
 - b. Sees College of Engineering as "research glue" on campus, able to partner with other groups/colleges
 - c. Pivot after one-page faculty proposals were in
 - i. New VP for research has initiative to start large collaborative research grants, to think about large center grants
 - ii. Working on inviting other faculty to join proposals to make more collaborative
 - d. How have research centers been involved in this process?
 - i. EAC has been overseeing; centers are heavily involved
 - ii. All faculty received call for proposals
3. P3 agreement was just finalized. What are your thoughts on the process and decision? What will this mean for college short and long-term?
 - a. Research and teaching go on in facilities

- i. Didn't want to lose important aspects of these missions
 - ii. During P3 exploration Dean and EFC sent letter to Rod Lehnertz with considerations and requests regarding our investment and involvement with these affected facilities
 - 1. We did everything we could to at least maintain what we have now
 - 2. Commitments to keep these are in the new partnership
 - b. Commitment of \$15 million a year to support research/academic enterprise on the campus toward execution of the university strategic plan
 - i. Will accept proposals each year that we would be eligible to apply for
 - c. What's in it for the company that takes over this partnership?
 - i. The company gains tax benefit as a private company that we cannot gain as a public institution
 - ii. Ohio State has P3 with Engie with positive results so far
 - d. Are there disadvantages of the agreement?
 - i. Will we lose control over something important? That's always a concern but no reason now to think that we will
 - e. Cathy went to public forum—
 - i. We will be coal free by 2023 instead of 2025 because of agreement
 - ii. 10 student internships in Belgium—our students could participate
 - iii. Water plant student operator positions will be maintained
 - iv. FM staff positions will not be cut—those staff can choose to become employees of new company or stay with university in a different position
- 4. DEI Council was formed about a year ago. What progress has been made? What's in the near future? What do we have to make progress on?
 - a. The council has been active and effective, for example listening posts (15 last year) among many other activities
 - i. Gathering information from small groups representing different constituencies and identities
 - ii. All listening posts took place last academic year
 - b. Already awarded grants: student travel, DEI initiatives
 - c. Formulating DEI action plan that builds from what the university is doing
 - d. DEI is everyone's responsibility; not siloed
 - i. New dean can change the direction of DEI council if they choose
 - e. Grad student diversity conference planned for January 24, 2020 (first week of classes)
 - f. Faculty workshop in the spring
 - g. Where to make progress: increasing diversity is critical to the college's diversity of ideas. Diversity of role models is also important.
 - i. Student diversity increased 300-400% after last SP
 - ii. Diversity of faculty still needs improvement
- 5. You obviously care about the college and the people here. Is there anything that you are worried about losing momentum on, things that are important to you that you want to see continued in the college?
 - a. Will have been dean for 10 years; has been a privilege

- b. Family has 13 degrees from here; university is important to Dean
 - i. Grandfather never went to college; farmed in Northwest Iowa using horse-drawn implements; but loved the university of Iowa, and his passion was academic
 - ii. Opportunity that came in family because of college education has transformed down the generations
 - c. Sees self as servant-leader, born from real belief in what education means
 - i. Ideas are currency at a university—shared, no ownership, and natural tendency is to improve and support good ideas
 - d. Will be available for the next dean if they want perspective and will fully support their leadership, vision, and decisions.
 - e. Excited about the future trajectory of the college because the next person will be informed and shaped by current faculty and staff and students
6. What's next after being dean?
- a. Has been in college admin for 21 years! Will stay here as faculty
 - b. Ready for more time with family
 - c. Doesn't want to think ahead too much—wants to stay with present responsibilities
7. Article in Gazette about how the new building hasn't been secured with funding. How is that going? How much has been secured?
- a. More fundraising necessary
 - b. Numbers in article only reflected one account; other accounts exist
 - c. Roughly half secured with other funding and fundraising planned