



**SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLANNING 2017-18  
REPORTING TEMPLATE**

**ROUTING: EACH SCHOOL AND UNIT WILL HAVE ITS OWN PROCESS, AFTER WHICH ONE DIVISION-WIDE DOCUMENT WILL BE CREATED FOR EACH DIVISION. FINAL DOCUMENTS FROM EACH DIVISION TO BE SUBMITTED TO [strategic@sonoma.edu](mailto:strategic@sonoma.edu) BY MARCH 1, 2018.**

Contact person:

Department/unit:

- Division:
- Academic Affairs
  - Administration and Finance
  - Advancement
  - Green Music Center
  - Student Affairs

In each section, please list the most-supported or frequently mentioned ideas first, followed by a section on “other ideas.”

**1. ASSESSMENT: What do we do well at SSU? What makes us proud?**

Frequently mentioned/supported ideas:

- Academic programs and physical space have grown
- SSU has various programs that support students (counseling, EOP, student services, Wine Business, Nursing, and extracurricular activities) – not a lot of large universities offer individualized attention to help students thrive
- Many opportunities for student development through jobs, internships and educational outlets
- Strong support for student endeavors
- Faculty are doing exciting work
- We are improving student engagement through programming at the Green Music Center – also offering more multicultural programming
- We engage in and are responsive to feedback and suggestions at the GMC
- The GMC puts on great events
- The Green Music Center helps support Sonoma State in having more notoriety

Other ideas (either less frequently mentioned or less robustly supported):

- Employee retention is good (employees are valued, great benefits packages)
- SSU has great Dorms



- People like visiting the campus – groundskeepers and facility maintenance do an amazing job
- Students come to SSU because of smaller class sizes
- Safe learning and working environment
- We are positively regarded in the local press
- Increase in staff/faculty that are SSU Alumni
- We are offering different avenues for use of the space at the Green Music Center

## 2. IMPROVEMENT: What can we do better at SSU?

**\*Please note with an \* the ideas to which your group assigned an asterisk (indicating that the unit/department could help to make improvement in this area)**

Frequently mentioned/supported ideas:

- Integration and engagement with the community and surrounding communities needs strengthening – better connection between the city of Rohnert Park and Sonoma State University\*
- We need to attract a more diverse community (student body, faculty, staff, etc.)\*
- Increase alumni relations and school pride\*
- Improve classroom facilities – upgrade and standardize technology
- Offer more classes that are needed for students to graduate
- Involve stakeholders in decision making
- Increase creativity\*
- Improve sustainability measures\*

Other ideas (either less frequently mentioned or less robustly supported):

- More programmatic bridges with Santa Rosa Junior College
- Change outdated rules (students should be able to work more than 20 hours/week)
- Ask what we can do to help retain people to live in Sonoma County\*
- Improve faculty and student relations – increase commitments and support for students
- Offer more internship opportunities with local businesses and organizations to the entire campus (not just the school of business and economics)
- Improve and share communication about facilities and how to make improvements
- Improve follow through with commitments and improvements

### 3. INNOVATION: What do we want to do at SSU that we don't do now to make the university better?

Frequently mentioned/supported ideas:

- Improve and increase shared spaces – redesign quad, more involvement in community garden, provide outdoor classroom space and places to sit outside, create spaces for student clubs to gather
- Create interdisciplinary teams and utilize the opportunity to improve connections
- Increase and provide faculty, management, professional development, and equity training in order to motivate faculty, staff and students
- Streamline processes
- Increase transparency with regards to budget decisions and how resources are allocated
- Teach faculty, students, and staff how to create movements of change
- Ask that all freshman come to the Green Music Center as part of their first year experience at Sonoma State
- Provide food at the GMC for music students, faculty, and staff who are here for a long duration of the day

Other ideas (either less frequently mentioned or less robustly supported):

- Get SSU community (faculty, students, and staff) to interact more
- Require professors and teachers to regularly re-evaluate their syllabus to reflect findings in the strategic planning process
- Improve trust between staff and faculty (foster a collaborative environment instead of a competitive setting)
- Redefine liberal arts as interdisciplinary



**4. ADAPTING AND CHANGING: What might we stop doing or do differently to change, innovate and improve at SSU?**

**\*Please note with an \* the ideas to which your group assigned an asterisk (indicating that the unit/department could help to make improvement in this area)**

Frequently mentioned/supported ideas:

- Decrease environmentally harmful measures –use less paper, use less water for lawns, etc.\*
- Stop competition between staff and faculty
- Decrease the culture of silos\*
- Stop being closed minded to new ideas – stop saying “we’ve never done that” or “we will never do that”

Other ideas (either less frequently mentioned or less robustly supported):

- Stop raising student fees