

## SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLANNING 2017-18

As part of SSU's strategic planning data gathering process, we are asking Vice Presidents and other campus leaders to guide the following unit-based exercise between now and March 1, 2018.

The questions are about **Sonoma State University**. They aim to help us gather more information about our community members' assessment of SSU, including what we do well, what we can do better, what we can do that is new, and how we might adapt and change some things to allow us to innovate and reach our shared goals in the future.

### I. GUIDELINES

To do the exercise effectively, faculty leaders, deans, managers, and other designated leadership should prepare to have writing implements (e.g., pens and markers), writing tablets or flip charts, and a space in which a larger group can break into smaller groups to facilitate conversation.

The entire exercise is on the second page of this handout. It should take approximately 60-90 minutes. Depending on the size of the group, each question (1-4) should take approximately 15 minutes. When breaking into smaller groups, please designate a facilitator. This person can keep time and also write the ideas on the paper or designate others to assist. Another ~20-30 minutes can be allotted at the end to share each sub-group's ideas with the whole.

Note that some ideas will be more appropriate for a different section - it is ok to go back and forth among the lists as the exercise progresses and as people have more ideas about assessment, improvement, etc. The goal is to be inclusive of the ideas that are generated.

### II. INFORMATION SHARING TEMPLATE

Departments/units will be asked by deans or managers to create one document based on the reporting template (attached). The template provides space for aggregating the responses to each question. As indicated, please list the most frequently or most clearly supported ideas first, followed by a sub-listing of ideas that had less support or were less frequently mentioned.

Input from the process will be shared later in the spring semester as the taskforce gathers information, seeks further input, and moves toward the creation of a strategic plan that will guide SSU over the next 5-7 years.

Thank you for participating in the university's strategic planning process.

Questions can be directed to Lisa Vollendorf and Carmen Works, Co-Chairs, Strategic Planning Taskforce, at [strategic@sonoma.edu](mailto:strategic@sonoma.edu).



## Sonoma State University Strategic Planning 2017-18

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

*As a starting point, some themes that have emerged already are:*

- Sense of community
- Commitment to sustainability, diversity, and community engagement
- Academic programs
- Beautiful campus and environment

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

*As a starting point, some themes that have emerged already are:*

- Strengthen community and business relationships
- Strengthen support for sustainability, diversity, social justice
- Strengthen alumni relations
- Improve advising, student support services, classrooms
- Eliminate achievement gap and improve graduation rates

**Second part to question (after ~10 minutes): Place an asterisk next to items on the list that you believe your own division, unit, department, or group can help improve.**

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

*As a starting point, some themes that have emerged already are:*

- Create public-private partnerships for university support
- Create new housing opportunities for students, faculty, and staff
- Create academic programs that serve the region (e.g., Wine Business Institute)

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

**Second part to question (after ~10 minutes): Place an asterisk next to items on the list that you believe your own division, unit, department, or group can help improve.**



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: .type name

Department/unit: .type department

- 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:

Keeping our campus beautiful Intimate, sense of community. Small size Option of events on campus Rec Center HSI student center Small class sizes Hutchins program Growing interest in social justice Sustainability Relationships with professors; knowledgeable faculty Community is engaged with issues Greek life Involvement opportunities On campus housing University Outreach Community Partnerships
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Other ideas (either less frequently mentioned or less robustly supported):



**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:

- Advising students and offering support through graduation rates and GE advising programs
- low accessibility of students enter to students
- Inconsistency with academic quality and professors
- Focus more effort towards sustainability
- Affordability of housing fees on campus
- More access to student services such as mental health care
- Offering more food options healthy food options and to go options
- Consistency in classrooms through communication and academic technology
- Diversity of staff faculty and students
- Offering more Library hours on the weekends
- Computers in the 24-hour lab
- Maintenance in classrooms
- Increase student input for decisions, priorities, and ideas
- Better support of students action

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



**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:

- School spirit
- post-graduation Advising
- Networking, and life planning through academic programs
- Public speaking classes
- item swap
- Culture of involvement
- Community engagement
- Space and resources for black students
- Corporate partners
- Financial literacy education
- Student Centered GMC events
- Student autonomy over campus spaces
- Sustainability space for students / Center

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



**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:

- Charging students, student organizations, student services outrageous fees.
- Turning double into triples in the dorms enter wasting and misusing space
- Make culinary Services food more affordable
- Forcing students into meal plans enter overcharging for merchandise in the student store
- Misplacing or losing mail
- Stop hiring faculty who can't teach or engage with students
- Requiring students to buy books that aren't fully utilized
- Expanding classes while not adding spaces proportionally
- Using half sized desks enter offering classes at such limited times
- Offering required classes only once a year closing w&b after 3 hours a day

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