



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 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:

- Sense of community (The campus is relational, Seawolf Pride, Seawolf Commitment, adaptable, student-centered, the "feel" of the campus/natural environment)
- Collaborative (1:1 relationships with students, meet students where they are at)
- Supportive of student success
- Seek and listen to feedback for improvement
- Resilient, adaptable, flexible, caring and committed, creative staff

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

- Number of students employed on campus
- Student development and leadership opportunities
- Creative with limited resources
- Optimistic yet realistic with expectations



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:

- Change advising model
- Improve experience of our students of color. Focus on the Big 8, e.g., creating a platform/forum for sharing of lived experiences *
- Improve culture by recruiting employees of diverse backgrounds
- Improve SSU’s identity and brand. Identify the academic programs we want to be known for and prioritize that.
- Connect academic experiences to career prospects, employability
- Cut out the bureaucracy; stop passing the buck
- More resources for health and wellness
- Fewer one-off projects/developments. Fewer projects that are either randomly positioned, don’t flow/fit with the campus or location, or are not utilized effectively or attended to

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

- Lack of evidence based decision-making *
- Pride in SSU sometimes means lack of interest to change *
- We need help being able to share “our story”, a shared narrative
- Accuracy of information published online. Info is often out of date, inconsistent, and inaccurate, e.g., look at current GE patterns, advising policy, disqualification policy, grade appeals process
- Better use/design of outdoor spaces, e.g., create points of congregation where students want to be. Incorporate tables with umbrellas or sun-sails, and landings with pavers. Meandering is good in moderation, but it feels we’ve made it a point of emphasis.



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:

- Centralize academic advising: Incorporate soft skills into meetings/advising/training
- Replace residential living spaces to be more traditional (shared/common space); alternative housing for faculty and staff
- More town and gown initiatives (alcohol awareness, fundraising, housing developments)
- Acknowledge importance and presence of international students and include international as part of the definition of diversity
- Require courses in each year to develop students' soft-skills, e.g., campus resources, study-skills, time management, finding an apartment off-campus, substance abuse in year 1; consent training, finding jobs, communicating with roommates in year 2; internships, campus involvement, research opportunities in year 3; interview skills, personal branding, applying for jobs, professional organizations in year 4.
- Change Career Services model, e.g., either a school-based model or a centralized model with broader, campus wide career services but not to where efforts/resources are duplicated.

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

- How to coordinate assessment and values
- IT and how we use technology to streamline processes
- Rethink orientation and the when/where/how we present info to students *
- More research opportunities for undergraduates
- An electronic handbook of resources for students



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:

- Improve professional development
- Stop redundant meetings
- Define collaboration
- Doctoral advancement opportunities – provide support to students who want to go in doctoral programs (guidance, share resources, etc.)
- Better alignment of Veterans and Student Services
- Integrate and intermingle first year and continuing student housing so that all areas are available to all students. This leads to stronger communities with lower conduct issues, and fewer problems with filling areas. Empty beds can be more easily assigned, and we can do away with the “freshman side” stigma for those continuing students who live on the west side of campus.
- Create academic programs for hospitality and recreation to complement wine business
- Create academic program related to migrant/seasonal workers. With the agriculture in CA and the wine in our surrounding counties and our Ethnic Studies programs, it seem this could be a concentration within CALS
- Create a Presidential Innovation Fund – grant funded to award staff to implement innovative ideas
- Accept credit card payments at Seawolf Services (pass bank fees onto the student)

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

- Create student family housing
- Collaborate between departments in a division to understand better the role of others, so that we can refer students appropriately and to avoid duplications of service.
- Stop over reliance on paper. e.g., Contract with Concur Travel to book in-policy and control costs.