University Planning Council  
April 21, 2015  
Dining Hall 216


Meeting was held to address a charge from the Executive Cabinet to develop recommendations and a plan for a year-long series of forums based on the environmental factors identified in presentations at the planning meeting and in the article, “Unsettling Times: Higher Education in an Era of Change” from the University of Denver Strategic Issues Panel on Higher Education.

Nate Heller facilitated a discussion on environmental factors of concern and influence on Tarleton. Factors that were identified in that discussion included:

- Accountability
- Keeping up with growth
- Growth of online education and faculty preparation
- Competency-based education
- Affordability (tuition guarantees, student debt, value, future funding, place-bound students)
- Accessibility
- Maintaining tradition/campus culture
- Tenure
- Changing demographics and recruiting (faculty, staff, students, international/global community)
- Student expectations/values (campus development, living environment, the “college experience”
- Understanding student motivation for seeking degree (undergraduate and graduate)
- Implementing new initiatives (funding and resources in place, how to focus)
- Strategic abandonment
- Evaluation of organizational structure
- Innovation and competition (outside forces, how do we adapt)
- College readiness (dual credit, community college/4 year degrees)

A vote followed, and the list was narrowed down to the top five environmental factors to be addressed in a forum/speaker event. Members self-selected participation in one of planning groups.

Implementing new initiatives (L. Beaty, B. Nemecek, K. Styron, S. Sundarrajan, and A. Wand)  
Innovation/Competitiveness (K. Rynearson, J. Edwards, B. Kunze, P. Sudman, D. Taylor, D. Weissenburger)  
Affordability (S. Guerra, H. Battson, J. Boyd, A. Brown, J. Johnson)  
Competency-based education (W. Atchley, M. Haynes, J. LaTouche. D. Savage)  
Online education and faculty preparation (K. Shaffer, A. Albrecht, N. Heller)

Highlighted names above agreed to take the lead in organizing groups. Each group will further define the topic area and develop ideas for a campus-wide event that should include format, potential speakers (campus or guests), scheduling, and budget. This is due to UPC co-chairs by Monday, June 1, 2015.