

Vitalization Work Group 8
Meeting Minutes 10/31/16, 4:00pm
3108 Blair Hall

Members present: Jeffrey Stowell (Chair), Ryan Hendrickson (Task Force Coordinator), Nora Pat Small, Britto Nathan, Samantha Boomgarden, Kelly Miller, Kimberly Kuspa, and Peter Liu, and Amy Rosenstein (via cell phone).

Mrs. Rita Pearson, Transfer Coordinator/Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, provided straw poll data collected from Illinois community colleges on programs of interest to students. These programs include: Agriculture, Health Sciences, Criminology, Cybersecurity, Nursing, and Sustainable Energy. Mrs. Pearson also mentioned that online programs of any discipline are of great interest to students. Dr. Small asked about the specificity of agricultural programs. Dr. Nathan suggested inviting Chair and/or Associate Chair of School of Business to the meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing an Agricultural Business program. Dr. Liu suggested that the committee should invite Dr. Ali Moshtagh, who is a specialist in Agricultural Economics.

Dr. Stowell initiated a discussion on Pre-Engineering program at Eastern (3 years at Eastern and 2 years at senior institutions, including University of Illinois). Dr. Hendrickson asked how many students are currently enrolled in our Pre-Engineering program. Mrs. Miller asked how we could differentiate a new engineering program at Eastern from those established programs at our neighboring institutions. Committee members pointed out that the strengths of Eastern, including small class size and personalized education, as differentiating factors.

Dr. Stowell mentioned that Math Department is developing a program called BS in Computer Science by revising the current major to add more computer science courses.

Dr. Liu suggested that our committee should give broader recommendations in our report to the President.

The committee had a discussion on online programs. Members stated the pros and cons of online programs. The committee decided to continue this conversation at a later time point.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15

Minutes recorded and submitted by Britto Nathan