

Vitalization Work Group 8  
Meeting Minutes 12/05/16, 4:00pm  
3108 Blair Hall

Members present: Jeffrey Stowell (Chair), Ryan Hendrickson (Task Force Coordinator), Samantha Boomgarden, Kimberly Kuspa, Britto Nathan, Ping Liu, and Nora Pat Small.

Dr. Robert Chestnut presented a proposal for a Center of Excellence for Faculty and Student Collaboration. He mentioned that he used as a model a similar program at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He suggested collecting a fee of \$80/student/semester. The money will be used for research awards, and for travel to present at research conferences. The money will be managed primarily by students with faculty as advisors. Dr. Chestnut suggested that the money could also be used for building an endowment to support student's research. Dr. Stowell asked if faculty would be compensated for mentoring students from the program's fund. Dr. Hendrickson asked if this program makes Eau Claire more competitive than other regional universities. Dr. Small asked where would this center be located if the program becomes a reality? Dr. Chestnut suggested that it could be housed in the Graduate School.

Dr. Kidd-Marshall shared her dreams for Eastern. She clarified that at present we only have an RN to BSN program at EIU. She emphasized the importance of liberal arts education in nursing programs. She mentioned that there is variation in course requirements among nursing programs. Dr. Kidd-Marshall mentioned that the shortage of nurses around the country is sky-rocketing, and is estimated to be about 200,000 by 2020. She suggested that we could reduce the tuition rate for the 21 hours (approximately) of general education deficiency that most prospective students would have. She recommended developing new master's level programs in Nursing, including Leadership and Management, Gerontological and Vulnerable population, and Nursing Education.

Dr. Stowell initiated a discussion on the process that the committee would like to employ to consult with the university constituencies. Several members suggested that we should have town-hall style meetings for each of the four colleges. Dr. Hendrickson suggested that we should have another way to reach out to people, like a survey.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by Britto Nathan