

Strategic Planning

Goal One

Executive Summary of the Audit Review

April 19, 2010

The Audit Team conducted a review of the nine initiatives by reading the work plans and (as schedules allowed) interviewing the Implementation Chairs. This summary outlines the areas of significance identified within each initiative.

Initiative 1 involves development of a first year residential village. This plan recommends the development of a housing unit and attendant programming designed to enhance the retention of first-year students. An Associate Director of Residential Life will be hired to coordinate themed housing and student success. The planners have also considered the interface needed to coordinate this initiative with the Campus Master Plan.

Initiative 2 seeks to further develop cooperative programs with Ivy Tech and to provide multiple points of entry to ISU. The planners have initiated discussions to change a competitive relationship to a cooperative relationship. The planners note that the initiative will require the establishment and on-going budgetary commitment to a Transfer Scholarship program.

The creation of a unified undergraduate success program (Initiative 3) involves numerous efforts, some of which are currently in place but need revision. The initiative seeks to impact the student experience from orientation through graduation. The success of this effort will require that the University locate key offices, programs and services under the direction of a single administrative unit, and that this new unit be staffed at levels necessary to the successful management of these programs and services.

Initiative 4 involves the development of five "Sycamore Express" one-stop shops on the campus and a virtual "Sycamore Express" on the web. The planners have identified the functions which can be accessed at these operations, have begun the training of the "core staff" that will provide primary leadership to the effort, and have undertaken a significant action plan to install technology necessary to this endeavor.

Developing a program for the parents and families of students, Initiative 5 planners have determined that the University must assess parent and family needs and provide specific programs and services to meet those needs. The planners intend to create a relationship with parents and families that provide a significant connection to the institution. Several specific programs and services are proposed to this end.

Initiative 6 seeks an increase in early outreach efforts to students in this region. The planners recommend an expansion of current efforts as well as the development of new approaches to establish relationships with 8th, 9th, and 10th graders. Making these

initiatives specific to this population, enhancing the communication with high school personnel, and engaging these prospective students with the University before their senior year are just some of the recommendations being considered.

Achieving greater impact on student success through Residential Life (Initiative 7) involves several initiatives which are underway. An Associate Director of Residential Life specifically tasked with responsibility for student success will be appointed. The planners intend to rethink staff assignments and titles to better reflect the commitment to this effort. The Implementation Team includes administrative and academic colleagues to facilitate a holistic approach to this project.

Initiative 8 intends to enhance graduate education. The Implementation Team has targeted increased enrollment generally and increased enrollment specific to graduate programs. The plan further seeks to enhance current academic programs and add academic programs designed to facilitate this growth. Many of the goals under this initiative have begun and others have been completed.

Finally, Initiative 9 (Enhance the gathering and use of information to advance ISU's strategic priorities) involves the use of technology to communicate with and connect students to the University.

The Audit Team found that the planning efforts toward achieving these initiatives is consistent with the Goal and seems to contain reasonable steps toward attaining the benchmarks.