**Planning and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Spotlight Room**

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Lia Cline, Jeff Helms, Dan Elkins, Rick Valentin, Carl Palmer, Zach Roy, Visha Midha, Amanda Hendrix, Jimmy Holmes, Paige Hofstetter, Wendy Polifka

**Absent:** None

**Public Comment:**

**None**

**Approval of Committee Minutes**

All approved Unanimously.

**Chairperson’s Remarks**

**Senator Valentin:** Next meeting, we will be going over policy reviews, and we will discuss the possibility of doing a policy review. Today we have guests from the strategic planning committee, we have Guests Angela Engel and Chris Roberts. They are here to talk to us about the draft of the strategic plan. Before we dig into the whole draft, we will be reviewing the mission statement at the front, which is the first statement. On page 3 of the draft the mission is listed, and we will be going over it as a committee. Chris will open with insight into the language.

**Order of Business:**

Strategic Planning Task Force Focus Discussion on draft University Strategic Plan  
Guests:

* Angela Engel, Director - Planning, Research, and Policy Analysis
* Chris Roberts, Planning Coordinator - Planning, Research & Policy Analysis

**Chris:** The mission statement you saw before you have been through a major review. Historically ISU has not had a mission statement, our first one was 3 pages, and our current one is now a paragraph. The mission statement has not been touched in the past until this current plan where we wanted a more modern mission statement which is more in line with other universities. We have gotten together with a group to try and find out about best practices to try and create a strategic plan, we got a group together to create a mission statement which has been approved by committee. The internal committee has approved it and has taken it to the presidential cabinet for approval as well. This is one of 10 different versions of the mission statement.

**Senator Valentin:** So, the statement itself, does anyone have any comments or questions about it?

**Senator Holmes:** Can you speak to why you chose citizens and leaders and not a word like students?

**Chris:** The goal was that as we are a state institution, we wanted to have a nod to good citizenship as we previously took it out. Regarding leaders, we chose this as we want to mold the next generation of leaders whether that be students, or faculty.

**Senator Cline:** I want to push back on the word citizen, this has come up in policy over the years. We teach DACA students who are not citizens, and while I understand it is about community members, the word citizen is a loaded word that might be inappropriate for a mission statement due to the term being loaded.

**Senator Helms:** I agree, I would not support it for that reason as well. As we do have DACA and international students, I feel that this is exclusionary when you interpret the word citizen as being a citizen of this country in particular.

**Senator Valentin:** I know we went through this in committee, at one point it was global citizens which was walked back in the past.

**Angela:** What is the protocol for changing this, as this has to go through this group. Would we have time to take this through the task force and still have time to review this in this committee?

**Senator Valentin:** This is one issue I have seen, as trying to approve the mission statement set apart from the draft as a whole seems a little strange. It seems to me that there is no reason for us to not discuss the mission statement later once the language is finalized.

**Senator Cline:** Did we need to vote on the mission statement today?

**Senator Valentin:** We were supposed to vote on this sooner.

**Senator Cline:** Following Roberts rules we can motion to table this and review this later**.**

**Senator Midha:** If there is a motion, we can amend it?

**Senator Valentin:** A motion to table this makes since, as long as we run things through by February**.**

**Angela:** As long as it’s approved before we take this to the shared governance groups it should be fine.

**Senator Helms:** There might be some urgency to move this forward from Chairperson Horst. The idea of a motion to table seems appropriate.

**Senator Cline:** Moves to put the draft mission statement for a vote on the floor.

**All in Favor of putting it to a vote.**

**Voted Unanimously**

**Senator Cline:** Makes the motion to table this item.

**Senator Holmes:** Seconds

**All in favor of the motion to table this item.**

**Votes Unanimously**

**Senator Holmes:** Can we just get rid of the term citizens, as it seems like not everyone is a leader.

**Senator Cline:** We should consult with other offices such as civic engagement before we change that.

**Senator Helms:** The first part of this mission statement is about who we are preparing, I also do not think that the way it is worded is clear. As this seems to be aimed at students in particular.

**Senator Midha:** I had the same thought as Senator Cline, I like the term productive members and leaders of the community, as we are just not trying to create learners.

**Senator Valentin:** We can move to this next section now, as that was the mission statement in particular. For the rest of the time, we can discuss the draft as a whole, just giving feedback.

**Angela:** I am going to give some background. We visited with 30 groups on campus last spring, we had a survey we used to get information and had different units come to the task force to give insight into our strengths and other areas. We have collected a lot of information; in total we had 17,000 coded rows of information that has funneled into the draft that is in front of you. Rick and Zach both sit on the task force, it is a broad group that has multiple individuals who represent campus. Throughout the summer we took all of the feedback that we had and developed the draft. This has been vetted through multiple groups. The draft itself is broad by design, there is a lot that we plan to accomplish. The thing you see in front of you is a front facing document that is meant for the public. In a couple of months, we will bring a comprehensive action plan which will support the goals and objectives. There are some key terms that will be included in the action plan that is not in the current draft. We anticipate a large number of work groups will be formed, such as sustainability, where we will bring in experts on to the topic. The plan is for these actions to be aspirational and with big goals. This is all to come, so if there is something missing it will be more than likely added into this action plan as there is more coming. What we will do is go over some discussion questions for the group that will be sent back to the taskforce, and we will revise the draft accordingly.

**Angela:** How well do the proposed core values represent who we are as a university?

**Senator Cline:** I noticed that under the Diversity, Equity and belonging that you do not mention access. This is a graduation requirement for students, specifically the notion of access. As special education is such a large part of the college of ed this should be in this.

**Senator Cline:** I would go to the provost website which has the information on the graduation requirements, which has been looked at by people who have the information.

**Senator Midha:** Generally, the mission statement and the core values should be unique, if I take ISU and replace it with another university, I feel that it would also fit another university. What is the unique thing ISU has that could be put in. Secondly, my lack of understanding about the things being changed with the union, should we add something with the union into the shared governance section? Do we see any impact with the new form of shared governance?

**Senator Valentin:** Until there is a union making decisions this will not be the right approach.

**Senator Cline:** We have some bodies that are unionized, and they do not find their way in.

**Senator Helms:** A faculty union could bring huge change into what shared governance on ISU’s campus looks like. We do not know what it will look like now, and this is an action plan till 2029 and there will be a union by then, so how do we word that in a way that will portray that collaboration without locking ourselves into a specific area?

**Senator Helms:** This seems to be focused on what we do for businesses rather than what businesses do for students.

**Angela:** Are the proposed new strategic directions and goals good strategic directions for the university?

**Senator Helms:** I like the direction of this, but what struck me is the question of where the money is coming from. To throw aspirational goals out and not knowing where the money is coming from makes this non-functional. I love this direction, and feel there are great things we should do, but this screams we have lots of money while we do not have that.

**Senator Cline:** You have to have the goal to fundraise around the goal.

**Dan Elkins:** When we look at our values and collaboration one of the things that I feel is that we are not very good at this. We work in silos; my goal is working through parallel efforts. To your point, if we are collaborating, we are pooling resources, right now we are not doing this and wasting a lot of money.

**Senator Cline:** Are you suggesting adding a section on collaboration?

**Senator Valentin:** This is mentioned in the responsible stewardship section.

**Amanda Hendrix:** Under section 4, goal A we talk about this.

**Angela:** This section refers to collaboration intently.

**Senator Cline:** I am not sure that I see Dans point reflected in this.

**Dan Elkins:** There needs to be specific action that informs people of this. Just because you have an idea in your department, we have people doing things on their own. We need specific action directed at ways to work together.

**Angela:** Agreed.

**Senator Valentin:** In this case are these directions something that can be used to make these arguments. Is there something within the structure of these values that the argument can be made with the strategic directions?

**Senator Helms:** That’s the thing about it being outward facing, as we can use this in the action plan. This broad look to the outside allows us to pick which values we choose. I feel this is very wonderful, I do not agree that collaboration will fix all of our money issues. That being said, we do struggle with collaboration and there are things under that will be broad enough to add to the action plan.

**Senator Cline:** Looking at strategic direction 1, goal B. There might need to be something added to the workforce added, as there are other plans to offer opportunities for the Illinois workforce to be involved. As a state institution our job is to educate Illinois, I would like another word to talk about this. We are focusing on who are other people who need one more step to advance. This objective could have more of a focus on that.

**Senator Cline: I** was going to say that I like the section on professional opportunities, goal D. The focus on employee growth and skill building, I appreciate this being there.

**Angela:** Does the draft reflect changes you would like to see across the university? What might be missing?

**Senator Holmes:** I like the section on infrastructure as this is something we can improve upon.

**Senator Helms:** Strategic direction 3, I love the fact that it’s in there. Section A, 3 bothers me as it makes it seem like we do not have this. One of the things that we are thinking about is making students feel accepted. To ISU students not on our campus, we have people who do not live on campus and are running into issues off-campus. These students are still ours; how can we reflect that student services help those who are off of our campus?

**Senator Palmer:** I had a class of people who had not stepped on campus.

**Senator Hofftsterer:** I feel that we need some focus on accommodations and include some resources.

**Angela:** I think the word infrastructure was the intent.

**Wendy Polifka:** I struggle with the word infrastructure as well.

**Senator Midha:** I would switch the order of objective one and two, two seems to be a broader goal whereas the next one seems to be a subsect of one.

**Senator Cline:** I am not a big fan of how little international and global are used. It first shows up with our brand, and then next with diversity, and the only other mention is in the last bit with international institutions. I feel that this is short sighted, there are a lot of ways that our institution must engage with international things. Our faculty as well, if we are to drive our reputation cannot simply be just in the United States, this does not seem to acknowledge this.

**Angela:** We only have this in a few spots. The intent is for the actions to address this, as this is an action in one of the other objectives. We did discuss this as it is hard to include all of this.

**Robert:** We had this problem come up frequently.

**Angela:** Anything else?

**Senator Holmes:** A section I would like to see is the university taking an active role in students being taken advantage of. Specifically, renting agencies and how they take advantage of students. I think ISU has resources, and I would like to see these being expanded and see ISU try and stop this from happening**.**

**Senator Midha:** Goal B, objective 3, I believe that career development is an important topic, and I would like to see more emphasis on this. As parents care about this, more focus on this would be helpful. Generally, objectives are measurable, I do not know how elevated can be measured.

**Senator Hofftsterer:** I had this thought about strategic direction 1, I feel it is focused on brand awareness. Where it should be focused on students being bettered as this would increase our reputation**.**

**Adjourned at 6:50pm**

**All in favor.**