

# Summary of Comments from College Visits

by T. Bart Quimby, Academic Planning Facilitator

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We received many suggestions and comments during the college visits, most of which were captured in the comments submitted following each of the visits. In the items below, I have attempted to capture the comments that may have specific impact on the writing of the academic planning document. There may be others found in the actual comments. Please review all the documentation.

## General Comments/Questions

- People recognized that there was “nothing new” (All colleges)
- What is the role of Prioritization? (CTC, CAS)
- More focus on building community through job training/placement (CTC)
- There was a tendency to consider this as being a UAA or UA wide document. In most groups there was a need to explain that this was a document targeted at decision making in only the colleges.
- The need for the document was questioned in most venues, though not strongly. There were a few questions about accountability of decision makers.
- One suggestion from CAS is that we should include the students more in this process.
- Change “citizen” to “civic minded graduates” or “civic minded community members” (COH)
- Absence of clear and articulate reference to economic development and entrepreneurship (CBPP)
- The absence of data-guided decision making and performance metrics was criticized repeatedly at CBPP.
- One member of CBPP recommends stakeholder analysis and gap analysis to make sure that we are meeting local needs.
- Another member of CBPP suggest that we add to the mission bullet points for what we want our professors and administrators to be.

## Title

- Title should reflect that this document applies to long term decisions (CTC)
- The name of the document should be changed to: Guidance for Making Difficult Academic (Budget) Decisions AY 2016/17. (COH)

## Preamble

- There should be language perhaps in the Preamble – that says the academic priorities drive the support services – and not the other way around. (COH)
- Italicize “These decisions must be driven by UAA’s academic mission” (CBPP)

## Guiding Assumptions

- The guiding assumptions are not sufficiently positive. Need to be more emphasis on recruitment, marketing, and revenue generation (COEd, COH, CBPP)

## C. Mission / Vision / Values

- Add two terms to the statement about preparing students to be active, engaged, well rounded. They need to be **critical and reflective** to be effective educated citizens. (COEd)
- Be cautious of the term citizens, and focus on creating good human beings (CAS)
- Liberal Arts and Science should be listed first (CAS)
- Maybe add a sentence that states how the University prepares students to not only be employable, but to create businesses and opportunities that will employ. Another sentence should state that this University should be committed to promoting the preservation and redefining of the arts in our culture. (CAS)
- CBPP expressed concern about the lack of productivity-related criteria as well as program duplication criteria. They also noted the absence of quantitative goals.

## Emphasis Areas

- A suggestion from CAS is to add “a clear hierarchy or the announced absence of the same”
- The idea that, while these are very Alaska focused, the lessons learned are applicable/exportable to other locales. Some recognition of this in the document might be useful.
- Clear emphasis needed on developmental education (KOD, KPC)
- It is important that research does not get lost (COEd, COEng)
- Some in COEng felt that the emphasis areas were about teaching and research got lost. At KPC, some felt that the emphasis areas were about research and that teaching got lost. Maybe consider a lead in sentence that the emphasis areas are to be applied to teaching, research, and service. KPC suggested two lists: one for teaching and the other for research.
- Maybe “flip” Emphasis Areas and Program Areas.
- Maybe move emphasis areas after the “All decisions must consider” portion (CAS)
- Rename “Emphasis Areas” to “Unique Attributes” (COH)
- “Arctic Issues”
  - COEng suggests “Arctic Opportunities”
  - KPC suggests “Northern & Arctic Issues” since Southcentral and northern tier states are not technically “Arctic”

- CBPP found this title problematic from a number of perspectives.
- “Indigenous Cultures”
  - Change “Indigenous Cultures” to “Alaskan Indigenous Cultures” (CTC)
  - Needs more emphasis. “Alaska and other Indigenous Cultures.” (COEd)
  - recognize cultural and linguistic diversity. Leverage overall diversity of Anchorage (COEd, CAS)
- “Sustainable Communities, Environments, & Economies”
  - CAS had a number of comments that appear to revolve around natural resource development/protection. One suggestion was to change “sustainable” to “protection of”. Another: “responsible and sustainable development of Alaska's resources and environments”
- “Local, Regional, & International Location”
  - Most groups grappled with this definition. Everyone agrees that we should take advantage of the many and varied opportunities afforded us by where we are situated.
  - CTC was not clear on what “local” meant.
  - COEd was not clear on what is meant by “International location”
  - Matsu not clear on this emphasis area. Why is national left out?
  - KPC suggests “Locational Advantage” or something similar
  - Suggestions from CAS to use “position” or “influence” instead of “location”. Another suggestion was “Leverage where we are” or “Develop human potential to exploit our status as a global crossroads.”
  - COH suggests to “Strategic Identity” or “Advantages and Responsibilities of a Unique Place”

### **All decisions must consider:**

- Consider getting rid of numbers and going to bullets
- Add “Federal Priorities”. We need to be responsive to Federal mandates (KOD, COEd)
- Matsu suggests more reflection on local needs
- COEd suggest that we should recognize efficiencies:
  - Alignment
  - Collaboration
  - Reduction in Duplication
  - Innovative teaching practices of faculty
- KPC suggest adding “Direct Effect on Student Experience” to the list

### **Additional Considerations**

- Consider getting rid of numbers and going to bullets