**Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 21, 2023, 9 am- 10:00 am, Zoom.**

**Present:** Pamela Pierce, Pam Lyle, Frank D’Angelo, Dean Holbrook, Tania Sheldahl, Lauri Dreher, Philip Reid, Dr. Tom Hughes, James Crockett, Michael Pierce, Patrick Burns, Ginney Bilbray, and Dr. Irina Del Genio.

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| **ITEM** | **ACTION** |
| Financial Plan Update | * In the presented discussion, Frank D'Angelo outlines the college's budgeting process, focusing on a proposed 5% tuition increase across various categories. He provides insights into the upcoming budget work study session, highlighting the inclusion of economic insights and demographic information. Frank emphasizes aligning budget requests with the college's strategic plan and anticipates increased funding demands this year. Regarding potential challenges, he touches on the proposed 5% property tax increase, expressing a preference for smaller, more frequent increases. The conversation delves into handling community concerns about tax hikes, acknowledging the need for better communication strategies. Finally, Frank addresses the college's financial stability, citing reliance on property taxes and conservative budgeting practices to mitigate risks while noting the potential impact of expenditure limitations imposed by the state.
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| SPC Education  | * A $62 Billion Revolution in College Completion (Tom, Frank)
	+ The presentation discusses an article on the $62 billion revolution in college completion, primarily focusing on the American Families Plan proposed by the Biden administration. The plan aims to enhance college retention and completion, but the speakers express skepticism about allocating funds as it doesn't appear to have progressed. They highlight the importance of focusing on completion, gainful employment, and supporting underrepresented students. The presentation explores challenges, including low completion rates, and introduces evidence-based success models such as dual enrollment, promise programs, and first-year experience courses. Additionally, the speakers discuss various initiatives and programs across the United States that leverage strong interpersonal relationships, real-time data analytics, and wraparound support to improve student outcomes. The presentation concludes by discussing the practicality of taking on new initiatives versus refining existing successful ones, considering factors like staffing and resources.
* Everyone is Talking About Belonging, but What Does It Really Mean (Tania)
	+ In Tania Sheldahl's presentation on the "sense of belonging" in higher education, she explores the concept and its significance in fostering student success. Tania delves into the challenges of making students feel they belong while highlighting the institutional responsibility to create conditions conducive to this sense of connection. Emphasizing that belonging is more than a buzzword, she advocates for measurable strategies beyond transactional approaches, stressing the need for collaboration across the entire institution. Tania's insights prompt a critical examination of how universities can authentically support diverse student populations and create environments where a sense of belonging is encouraged and tangibly realized.
* Prospective College Students Increasingly Say They Feel Unprepared for Higher Education (Dean, Michael P.)
	+ The presentation explores the impact of the pandemic on higher education, focusing on the decreased enrollment and the questioning of the value of pursuing higher education among high school students. A significant number of students, feeling academically and emotionally unprepared, have either delayed or decided against attending college. The discussion highlights the increased percentage of students who now feel unprepared for college, with disruptions during the pandemic affecting their social readiness and confidence. The presentation suggests recommendations, including academic and social readiness boot camps, to address these challenges. Additionally, it emphasizes the need to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of all students, not just those with high academic success, fostering a more inclusive recognition of various accomplishments throughout their college journey.
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Zoom link: <https://yavapai.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=27c88042-a15e-4ed1-b5df-b0c10129fc46>