

11-8-2010
Meeting # 1

Driving Discovery and Innovation Work Group
(DDIWG)

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Mechanics
 - a. Our timeline – draft report to the steering committee in March
 - b. Proposed initial meeting schedule (all Saturday mornings): November 20th, December 4th, December 11th, January 22nd, January 29th
 - c. Alternative meeting dates/times? February meeting options
 - d. Communications preferences among the group: email, Blackboard, Hawk Drive for drafting our report: Preferences
3. Methods for communication with faculty
 - a. Direct solicitations to faculty via email, etc.
 - b. Hold open forums at the level of schools in December; and/or late January and February
 - c. Ask departments to discuss our charge at an upcoming faculty meeting and send us suggestions, input, questions?
 - d. Post all minutes of our meetings on “strategic planning website”
 - e. Do RFP on strategic research themes in response to specific criteria
 - f. Other thoughts and suggestions
4. Discussion of DDI Goal and characteristics

Driving Discovery & Innovation

Goal and characteristics

- Goal: Enhance KU scholarship broadly with a special emphasis on areas of present and emerging strength in order to impact specific challenges facing society.
- Characteristics:
 - Scholarship is increasingly transdisciplinary, synergistic, and collaborative.
 - Intellectual risk-taking and long-term thinking are encouraged.

- All forms of research and creative expression are embraced in an expansive view of scholarship.
- Research training and scholarship are strengthened.
- Outcomes are increasingly measurable, and include external validation and greater visibility.
- Wider dissemination of knowledge is achieved.

Steering committee input to work group

- *Urgent Issues for KU: (This is a summary— full SWOT analysis and input attached)*
 - Graduated education is perceived as secondary in urgency to issues in undergraduate education
 - Graduate needs are not given sufficient attention (i.e., financial support, time to degree, mentoring)
 - Mentoring of graduate students
 - Reputational issues regarding KU’s standing in AAU, insufficient funding, our inability to articulate to the public the value of being a research university
 - Too large a percentage of faculty not engaged in scholarly research
- *Example strategies for exploration by work group:*
 - Define and promote a culture of intellectual risk taking at KU
 - Examine post-tenure review and continuous assessment
 - Focus promotion and tenure structure and culture on excellence
 - Value and reward collaborative research
 - Make strategic cluster hires aimed at specific grand challenges that could leverage state and national funding
 - Develop and promote a national cancer center
 - Move mid-level programs higher
 - Develop models for joint appointments
 - Meld KUMC & KU Lawrence
 - Expand “science on tap” ideas to other areas
 - Encourage entrepreneurship in graduate education
 - Use KUCR to initiate collaborations and make matches
 - Create physical space to encourage collaborations and move faculty out of silos
- *Example outcomes:*
 - Enhanced status as an international research university

- Enhanced, deepened, broadened scholarly impact of KU in strategic areas and with a long view (10+years) that is externally validated
- Discovery including disseminating knowledge to peers and larger publics
- KU's culture is team based research, especially in regards to graduate training for large complex problems

5. Homework

- a. 2015 “aspirations” document
- b. Research Engagement Task Force Report