Campus Forum #2 (North Campus)—December 3, 2015
Noon – 1 pm ECHA 2-190
Led by: David Turpin
Number of attendees: ~45

**Summary**

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<th>Themes</th>
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<td>- Support for the TRC</td>
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<td>- Sustainability—important to signal our commitment to it</td>
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<td>- Address the instability faced by precarious faculty (CAST and SOTS)—consider teaching stream</td>
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<td>- Student experience (core competencies such as writing/communication, ensure access, reduce class size, support student groups, etc)</td>
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<td>- Facilitate collaboration and coordination by creating standardized systems.</td>
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<th>Thought Provokers</th>
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<td>- Could we use the $1 B endowment to bring some stability to SOTS positions?</td>
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<td>- Set an operational goal that would see the number of undergraduates taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty increase (i.e. reduce CAST to undergraduate ratio)</td>
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<th>Tension to Drive Positive Change</th>
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<td>- Rationalize the U of A’s five writing centres</td>
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<th>Strategies</th>
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<td>- Phase out Styrofoam and plastics on campus by XX years</td>
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<td>- Acknowledge the talents and value of NASA staff</td>
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The U of A has signed a sustainability charter—the commitments there needs to be backed up in the ISP.

- the key thing is to embed it into the ISP, including reference to committing to changes in operational processes
- we have an incredible opportunity with current alignment among all orders of gov’t on climate change—we could be a major leader
- sustainability should be a pillar

The ISP is an enabling document—What can be in the plans that will enable the change you want?

Use the word “sustainable” with intentionality.
- E.g. phase out Styrofoam or plastics by XX year. If we are going to be a leader, we need to begin with specifics

TRC—if we can commit to supporting the TRC recommendations and do it well, the impact will touch all.

Strategic plans tend to sit on shelves—no one reads them. You need to include something that everyone can easily hold on to and champion. Simplicity.

Support the TRC.

A suggestion: U of A should take on the challenge of precarious faculty members—would like to see the U of A set an operational goal re: the tenured (or tenure-track) prof to undergraduate ratio.

Tenure-track teaching stream should be looked at.

Include writing and communication skills as a core student competency
- Rationalize the five writing centres on campus—or at least encourage collaboration and coordination of operations.
- We need to talk to each other
- We’re in position to lead on that

SOTS employees are in a precarious position because of the fact that their positions are grant funded. Could there be a strategy on using some of the $1 B endowment funds to stabilize this situation?

NASA employees want to involved in this process—they have great pride in the institution
- More acknowledgement of the importance of the role NASA staff play—we are here and we are proud of the work we do
- U of A is a destination workplace—the competition to work here is tough—we attract the best and we should acknowledge that

Worry about increases in class sizes and its impact on student experience.

Would like to see the ISP address barriers to student involvement (e.g. because they need to work to afford school, they can’t get involved in extra- or co-curricular activities)
More resources are needed in the office of the Dean of Students to fund student groups and to continue to provide critical services, such as mental health.

From an IST perspective there a things that can be done to address some of the challenges that are often identified by faculty members. E.g.
- We could improve IT systems to improve the students’ experience of the “business” of being a student.
- In PeopleSoft, there is student advising software—it is there—we just need to activate it and see if it can work for us. Also, pre-requisite software that would make it easier for students to manage these.
- We could help create systems for processes that are similar across all faculties—e.g. FEC. We need resources to help faculties work towards common goals. Lever common resources to reach common goals.
- Standardized systems can actually allow for and facilitate collaboration because systems “talk” to each other and people can easily move between disciplinary boundaries if the systems are similar.

Include recognition that experiential learning doesn’t only happen in the classroom.

Promote existing Aboriginal programming—use it to encourage student recruitment.

University should have an “enthusiastic consent” campaign on campus to address the issue of sexual assault on campus.

Provost Steven Dew provided the following summary:
- A number of values came to the fore:
  - Sustainability
  - Social justice (i.e. TRC)
  - The need for safety and security in the broadest sense—such as job security, personal safety, etc
  - Cohesion—needed to deliver common institutional services
  - Broaden student experience
  - Consistency—standard level of services—facilitated by an integrated system
  - Enable coordination, efficiencies—eliminate redundancies
  - Break down barriers—esp for students to access services