

College Council Notes

October 27, 2017

Welcome: Christina Erickson welcomed everyone to College Council.

September 29, 2017 Meeting Notes: Christina asked for any changes to the September 29, 2017 College Council meeting notes. There were no changes to the notes and the September 29, 2017 College Council notes were approved.

Topic Ideas: As a reminder from the September meeting, the President shared that he was looking for conversation regarding issues important to the College. Some ideas were generated at the September meeting, along with suggested guidance about where topics could come from, for example, the 2020 Strategic Plan and the Cabinet's areas of focus for this year. Christina, Christa and President Laackman met to discuss the list of topics.

Topic: What Does It Mean to Be a Champlainer? What is Our Identity?

The Council was asked to gather in three small groups of students, staff and faculty. Once in those groups, discuss what your Champlain identity means and report out at the end of the conversation. The purpose is to hear how people describe their Champlain identity. Not just "special. You may not think this, and that is ok.

Notes "What it means to be a Champlainer to...":

Staff

- Caring community
- Personal touch/investment pride
- Anti-UVM (foil)
- Small scale
- Lack of bureaucracy (usually)
- Pride
- Driven/direction/ambition
- Vermont - friendly, safe, green, beautiful, small town
- We do stuff/produce results
- End is jobs = visible
- Exploiting over-achievers/burnout
- Change is constant
- Unclear internal career paths

Faculty

- We are special
- Student focused
- Engaged - internal and external
- We are rigorous and students thrive
- Faculty are supportive (beyond collegial)
- Personal connections with students
- Open to change/humility
- Nimble with curriculum
- Responsive to students and external input
- Faculty external connections are strong
- Connected to alums
- Getting better at cross-divisional and cross-program collaboration
- Professional, meaningful, applied, relevant
- New image - 1st choice college
- Proud of our work
- Anticipate what's coming next
- Survival instinct
- Not just a VT school anymore
- Agile

Students

Pros

- Meaningful relationships with faculty (small classes)
- Media focused
- Career-built agenda
- Big community
- Safe spaces
- Career opportunities readily available (EMC, LCDI, etc.)
- Flexibility and variety in curriculum
- “Nerdy,” “unique” culture
- Non-traditional
- Authentic

Cons

- Lacking in traditions
- Drug/Alcohol Culture
- Lack of perspective of oppression
- Safe spaces don't trickle down to student body

Reflections: The College Council was asked to comment on the following questions related to this conversation: What surprised you? What was reaffirmed? What opportunities arise? There were good interactions between students, staff and faculty in order to learn different perspectives. Ok to lose the report outs in order to listen and hear more. Conversation is great. This format helps the President to hear what we think is important. Now what? What will happen with the information gathered? How will this conversation translate to the community as a whole?

The President shared that he will bring this information to the Cabinet to digest. Actions may come from that conversation.

Future Topics: The Council was asked to continue brainstorming suggestions.

Adjourn and Next Meeting: The College Council meeting was adjourned at 9:39a.m. The next meeting of the College Council is December 15, 2017, 8:30a.m., in the Morgan Room, Aiken Hall.