I have recently been elected by the Strategic Plan Steering Committee (SPSC) as its Chair. I am a faculty member in FNRM, and one of five elected representatives put on the SPSC in late September 2015. The four other elected committee members are: Richard Hawks, Sue Sanford, Art Stipanovic, and John View. I encourage you to interact with these and other folks on the SPSC to continue sharing your ideas, comments, and concerns.

Other members of the SPSC include (18 total):

Scott Bergey, Kelley Donaghy, Maureen Fellows, Margaret Foley, Bob French, Brenda Greenfield, Mark Lichtenstein, Anne Lombard, Valerie Luzadis, Neil Ringler, Joe Rufo, Scott Shannon, and Chuck Spuches. You can get in contact with these folks – they represent us too.

We have had a full and productive fall semester. October 5th was our first committee meeting, and we’ve had seven total meetings, most recent on December 14th, when we met with President Wheeler for two hours.

I share with you here three accomplishments to provide you an overview understanding of what we have done and what we plan to do (often the two woven together):

1) Approach to solving the problem (define the problem)
   a. Set aside the 5/7 and 9/15 plan documents produced by current administration and our community over the last year
   b. Reset / re-engage a way forward in planning that will
      i. Focus on updating Vision 2020 (the College’s current strategic plan initiated in 2003) *(Vision 2020 Update: A Bridge from the Present to 2020)*
         1. This is really a bridge to full out strategic planning to start in 2017-2018
         2. An open dialogue that is the impetus for continued discussion, with resolution there with the new, full strategic plan to be let in 2020
      ii. Incorporate new, forward-looking aspects of strategy by gleaning community-supported directions as specifically associated with carefully adding new goals and objectives, representation of ESF strengths and diversity, and rich portrayal of ongoing work and new initiatives

2) Template developed for what the Vision 2020 Update will look like
   a. 30-35 pages, modeled after V2020
b. Broad approval and buy-in on general approach – focus of meeting with President this week

c. Classic, with new wrinkles (SUNY-Excels, upgraded compass diagram vehicle for communication who we are / want to be, new initiatives as clear targets and metrics

d. Audience: us, SUNY, external stakeholders and partners, including formal groups such as the Foundation, and Alumni and other employers

3) Community work – those of us on the committee as reps, but you too

   a. Unit/Departments – recent accomplishment, goals and aspirations, differentiators

      i. – over the next month

   b. Vision and Mission statements – revisit, community-based development

      i. – over the semester

   c. Review and comment – rich communication, listening sessions, drafts and revisions

      i. – over the semester

   d. April/May – to the President, to the Board of Trustees

To quote John View, a member of our committee – via an email he sent to me earlier this week:

“We are now on the road to getting somewhere and we have a 'template/living document' to attach our work and the hard work of others to. There will (be) some bumps in the road ahead; yet I know we can do this.”

The key is “we” – please look to re-engage in planning, at least a bit, and look to be involved and help now and in the new year.

Happy holidays to all!