January 2018 Progress Summary

A distillation of the Executive Committee Progress Reports

# Feedback to Committees

* Given the brevity (1-2 pages) and frequency of the Executive Committee progress reports, committees should focus on recent progress and not try to summarize all progress to date in their biannual reports.
* While the influence of the attention given to each focal area by the committees is important and recognized, progress that is a direct result of the committee’s work should be distinguished from related progress in the focal area.
* The RFP is one instrument for furthering the committees’ goals, but it should not be the sole instrument. Committees need to communicate their goals and strategies widely and strive the engage the University community to support their vision.
* At the mid-point of our plan implementation, we should be moving beyond the idea generation and planning stage and starting to see some concrete progress. This doesn’t mean all outcomes achieved, but it does mean taking steps that are visible to the University community and establishing a clear vision for what success “looks like.”

# Quick Overview by Committee

## Advancing the Arts & Humanities

* Held a forum at UP in January
* Outreach
	+ Progress toward university-wide calendar
	+ Discussion on moving museums to arboretum
	+ Continued deliberation on campuses as cultural destinations
	+ Possible wish for new position of A&H coordinator for campuses
* Students and curriculum
	+ Many (>50) new inter-domain courses
	+ Beginning to explore possibilities of integrating more A&H into study abroad and bringing more cohesion to study abroad options via the use of technology
* Research
	+ Arts and Design Research Incubator launched
	+ Humanities institute launched
	+ Committee will be soliciting proposals for cycle 3 to strengthen these research centers through infrastructure and programming
* Next steps
	+ Plan for a year's "big idea" to engage faculty from a range of disciplines and tie research curricula and outreach together. Developing this into a round 3 proposal. Completion of calendar project by Jan '19 will be key for this to move forward.

##  Infrastructure & Support

* Fall focus was on resetting the Executive Committee and reconstituting the Steering Committee.

## Driving Digital Innovation

* Education: new degree programs, Adobe Cloud
* Research: plans for faculty co-hires in the Institute for Cyber Science, digital infrastructure process for sharing health-related data
* Economy: Invent Penn State, LaunchBox expansion, Penn State Startup Week; projects related to broadband access and wireless technology in the Commonwealth

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## Enhancing Health

* Improve health: Employee Health and Wellness Center
* Aligned the UHSC with the Exec Committee
* Interdisciplinary faculty panels to identify points of collaboration on key health topics
* Created four faculty working groups to address their four focal areas
* Healthy number of proposals received through RFP
* Working to support our efforts to get NCI designation
* Supporting the Consortium on Substance Use Prevention

## Organizational Processes

* Received funding for "A University-wide, Structured Approach to Organizational Excellence"; engaging consultant for guidance
* Moving forward, develop a working group to facilitate the above project and to develop a process for prioritization

## Stewarding our Planet's Resources

* Worked to solicit and help people refine proposals
* Working to add students
* Planning to host a forum in March
* Student Farm expansion
* Continued research support for Energy University
* Academic lead supporting the Council on Competitiveness for the Energy and Manufacturing Competiveness Partnership report "Leverage: Energy"
* Cross university forum on future of water resulted in a number of action items
* $1.2 million in NSF funding for Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS)
* Inter-institute seed-grant project related to health and the environment

## Transforming Education

* Developed a white paper on *One Penn State 2025*
* Learning Analytics Task Force is looking at interventions in large-scale courses and in relation to the new academic warning and suspension policy
* Expanding support and resources for the Student Engagement Network
* Focus on developing and implementing programs to support access and affordability (RaiseMe, PaSSS, LEAP Plus, open educational resources to reduce text and materials costs)
* Crafting a GenEd Wikispace, research on teaching and learning in gen ed
* Studying experimental learning spaces
* Inventorying instructional resources, identifying gaps (done), and making recommendations (planned); gathering data on entry points and pathways used by faculty
* Working to move forward on proposal to use research-based pedagogies to enhance gen ed outcomes