Goal 5: Cultivate leadership, integrity, social equity, globalization, and civic engagement to prepare students for meaningful contributions to society.

Three focus groups were held on February 9, February 16 and February 23. The working group leaders have provided the following notes on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, resulting from these three focus groups:

February 9 Focus Group

Strengths and weaknesses focus on internal factors of skills, resources and assets.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Multiple opportunities are available to students such as Study Abroad, Internships & International Students.	Students do not always take advantage of opportunities available to them.
Scholarship monies are available for Internships, Study Abroad and Undergraduate Research. There are in some instances, monies available that students do not take advantage of.	Not enough money available to students wanting to Study Abroad and do Internships.
Faculty are committed to goals and make learned decisions regarding courses for students.	Strive to engage more students in Leadership, not just Club leaders.
SU fosters and develops student confidence and prepares our majors well.	Academic Affairs and Student Affairs need to strive to work more closely and to keep students informed.
Partner more with community to give students more experience. Students want to learn more about other cultures and volunteer.	No support of volunteer opportunities
Meaningful capstone experience projects in place. Three strong exchange opportunities for our students (Major specific).	Need to offer First Year Experience.
Opportunity to use technology to our advantage.	Technology can be an opportunity as well as a threat (integrity). The media also portrays that drama is acceptable.
Opportunity and threats focus on external factors over which you have little or no control (social or economic factors).	

OPPORTUNTIES THREATS

Opportunities are available to encourage creativity to meet goals. Opportunity to connect globally with other cultures through technology.

Diversity requirements need to be updated with more required of students.

Stimulus monies or grants may be available to grow long term opportunities.

Opportunity to connect globally with other cultures through technology. Opportunity to create better students because of the economy.

Internship fairs and job fairs are available to students.

Engage parents and get them involves through family day and parent newsletters.

Engage alumni.

Economy prohibits some students from attending and could affect diversity.

Need to communicate to students SU core values – leadership, scholarship, internship, partnership, friendship, mentorship. Need to display these values everywhere on campus.

February 16 Focus Group

Strengths and weaknesses focus on internal factors of skills, resources and assets.

STRENGTHS

WEAKNESSES

Student empowered model which includes clubs and other organizations. Faculty and staff involvement which cultivates leadership.

Increased exposure to critical thinking. Learn to question and think of new challenges – decision making. Do we get involved and how?

Service learning to enhance civic engagement.

- Internships
- International experience

Learn to question and not accept stereotypes.

Socialization given and students are exposed to different cultures. Students learn what their responsibilities are as citizens.

Availability of study abroad and international studies. Intern programs cultivate leadership exposure.

There are program opportunities through speakers and events that are offered.

Faculty members encourage students to attend speaker

Not enough linkage between academics and campus life in service learning activities.

Many social activities and other events are ethnically grouped with lack of social integration.

Global awareness – need to increase number of foreign students

- Lack of resources
- Lack of scholarship opportunities
- Financial Aid

Limited staff to address issues.

Lack of funds to support student development such as

receptions as well as opportunities to attend and present at conferences.

research and conference presentations.

Student Affairs.

Moving toward more resources for student research.

Experiential learning offers personal development such as awareness of place in community as well as professionalism (self awareness).

Development of "Leader @ Ship" Program

- Emerging leaders (Freshmen & Sophomore)
- Advanced leaders (Seniors)

Connecting with other colleges in the area

Volunteer Services - "Scholars in Service Program"
Government Program through PA State System to
increase volunteers with civic engagement. Volunteer
Services has strengthened their best practices to work
with faculty members and collaborate through an
advisory board to support academic areas.

No full time dedicated staff to support Volunteer Services. Currently is run through three offices and is hard to coordinate.

Lack of communication between Academic Affairs and

AmeriCorps / Vista person on campus.

"Up Till Dawn" has raised \$42,000 in the past 3 years for St. Jude's. Haiti relief is another area which shows students working together for a cause.

Lack of support from community toward other ethnic

No full time person to coordinate on campus.

Administration has been very supportive of Social Equity Programming with funding and activities.

Identify diversified Scholars.

Major effort has been made by university and departments on promoting Goal #5.

Counseling Center & Health Center on Campus.

Effective Advising Support Goal #5.

Learning Center supports student tutors with leadership training.

Career services offer services to link students to companies.

Lack of support from community toward other ethnic cultures.

Lack of scholarship funds available.

Goal #5 efforts by departments are not coordinated.

Greater support needed for students for mental health (psychologically and emotionally) addressing Goal #5.

Resource issue – some faculty have too many advisees making it difficult to give individual attention.

Students many times do not take advantage of what is offered.

Intramural sports/Athletics/Rec Center

- Leadership

- Social support

- Community & civic engagement

- Diversity on teams

Honors program – living/learning – new dorms

University very supportive of professional development for faculty

Integrity – push with academic day – honors pledge. Students judicial process – code of conduct

Career counseling – Employers want students to volunteer. Strong partnerships with some businesses and school districts.

Increase dialog and coordination between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs (Common calendar).

Bridge the town/gown gap

Do internal research to institutionally connect Academic Affairs and Student Affairs.

Bridge the "technology gap" between faculty, staff and students. Learn to communicate the way students do through facebook, twitter, texting.

Opportunity and threats focus on external factors over which you have little or no control (social or economic factors).

OPPORTUNTIES

THREATS

Student portfolio – E-folio – PA

Free to students to develop an online portfolio to market themselves. Currently are working together to get Ship set up with this program.

Joint degrees with other universities.

Learn to cooperate with other universities on joint degree programs.

Initial effort underway to increase International effort through PASSHE.

Expand online education

Quality of online programs are ever changing because of technology. Goal #5 is difficult to implement with online offerings.

Economic Opportunity for community to appeal more to students.

Relationship with Town/Gown. Acceptance of Goal #5 values by the community. Community has fear of differences.

Conference center program expansion.

Strengthen links between students and employers for volunteers.

Work to diminish value gap between university and town. Eliminate suspicion and mistrust. Look for

Community has a misperception of the university

WIN/WIN connections.

faculty, staff and students.

Expand student ambassador's concept to connect with the community. Also increase faculty/staff involvement in the community.

Focus on connecting with appropriate university services to educate students of dangers of drugs, alcohol, social networking and how they impact on their careers after college.

Students do not understand their risks with their behaviors. They do not see how their behavior can affect their futures.

- Websites
- Underage drinking
- Criminal charges/background checks

Examine effective ways to promote appropriate student/faculty social engagement

Fear among faculty to socialize with students without fear of consequences.

FUNDING!

February 23 Focus Group

Strengths and weaknesses focus on internal factors of skills, resources and assets.

STRENGTHS

WEAKNESSES

University is a "magnet" to pull diverse cultures to campus to develop cultural awareness.

The focus of work group #5 is articulated in the Universities Strategic Plan.

Opportunity for civic engagement through community

Splintered approach – how can we tie groups together

Service Learning – Faculty incorporate service activities into their courses

Promotion and tenure reward system fails to value service sufficiently

Scholarship aid funds support students' addressing goal #5 targets (example – students do not need to work therefore can pursue leadership opportunities)

College Advisory Boards support channels funds to support student research and leadership development

Value Oriented class offerings

General Education and PASSHE promote verbally a commitment to ethics/integrity

General education does not address ethics/integrity in society in their curriculum because of staffing issues and budget concerns.

Student activity fees assist in funding student projects but other sources may be available but it is not always known where they should go to secure other funding for research and projects.

Civic involvement promoted.

Students have a disconnect in civic engagement between where they vote and where they live. They do not get involved in local politics.

Community should invite students to participate in civic affairs.

Diverse programs & global awareness offered through programs at Luhrs Center. Range of programs at Luhrs support both popular and non-popular performers. Funding issues for some performances.

Office of Social Equity is important in promoting diverse campus values.

Need to address admissions criteria to retain our quality of students.

Campus Life seeks to support students' sense of belonging.

Environment is not conducive to "fitting in". Diverse students don't always enjoy the community available at Ship.

Richly traveled faculty and Study Abroad support global awareness.

Need to celebrate the global learning opportunities and to support the short term study abroad.

Lack of alternative Spring Break trips. These could be a global trip or a trip to support global engagements (such as Habitat for Humanity).

Creative Campus Culture to explore alternative funding.

Funding a persistent problem. Limited by PASSHE control.

Opportunity and threats focus on external factors over which you have little or no control (social or economic factors).

OPPORTUNTIES THREATS

Challenging environments fosters opportunity.

Weak economy/thin resources. Limits of tuition – increase and state subsidy.

Location. (Proximity to Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington). Ease in engaging rural and urban. Groups.

Take campus to the people.

Lack of outreach, resources, faculty interest and

contracts.

First year experience or entry opportunity to explore values.	Stasis and territoriality in General Education program limits creativity.
	Example - Competition among departments for positioning an academic experience in Gen Ed.
Promote a civic organization fair similar to career fair to engage students in civic activities. Volunteer services holds a fair each fall.	Lack of collaboration on campus.
	Wasted funds due to duplication of programs.
Living/Learning Communities.	Chasm between Academic and Student Affairs.
	Community is territorial and often not part of a whole.
Create a Wellness Center.	Students have an increased need for counseling services on campus.
	Address the changing needs of the new population of students.
Be aware that our students are changing.	Limited information exchanged about our students needs (legal restrictions)
	Need to prioritize major issues related to student issues and needs.
	Generational gap in technology & communication. Students come with different skills than professors.
	Intergenerational transfer. Technology hinders communication skills, development and certain contexts.
Opportunity to teach better research skills.	Limited writing skills/research skills.
	Dumbing Down of America.

Recommendations

- The Goal 5 Working Group recommends that the word "globalization" be changed to "global awareness" in the statement of Goal 5.
- The Goal 5 Working Group recommends changing "prepare students" to "prepare students, faculty and staff" in the statement of Goal 5.

Action Items

As a result of these focus groups, the Goal 5 Working Group proposes the following action items:

- Emphasize to students to take advantage of opportunities.
- Website for Scholarships.

- Change General Education requirement for language requirement.
- Reallocate resources to spread the wealth.
- Build core values bookmarks faculty emphasis.
- Funds for transportation to career fairs.
- Develop junior level courses to prepare students for professional life.
- Increase alumni relations.
- Use our students as ambassadors.
- Help faculty understand their roles in goal 5 opportunities.
- Develop and enhance communication between academic affairs and student affairs.
- First and Second year programs to tie together academic and support services.
- Help students to develop portfolios from Day 1 through Graduation to combine academic and non-academic strengths.
- Develop a strategic plan to address Town/Gown gap.
- Remind students that they are part of a community.
- Provide professional development opportunities for staff and help staff to feel empowered and connected to the university & community.
- When referring to "student, faculty and staff," students should be listed first.