

2015

Portland State 20/20 - FAQ

Strategic Planning Development Team

Portland State University. Office of the President

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Portland State 20/20 - FAQ

What is a Strategic Plan?

A strategic plan is a high-level set of shared goals that form the basis for key decisions, initiatives and policies, looking five to 10 years in the future.

Why is PSU doing a Strategic Plan now?

Several reasons. The current plan is closing in on six years and needs an update given the rapid and dramatic changes in higher education. Following last year's labor negotiations, President Wim Wiewel decided the university needed a campuswide conversation about its goals and vision for its future. Shortly after the school year began, the PSU Board of Trustees charged President Wiewel with developing a strategic plan.

What is the timeline for the plan?

The goal is to have a completed draft of the strategic plan by fall 2015. However, the overriding goal is to engage the campus in a meaningful way even if that means extending the timeline.

Is the Strategic Plan going to be used to make budget decisions?

Not directly. However, it will provide a framework for making decisions in the future.

Who is involved in the Strategic Planning process?

Faculty, students, staff, administrators, Board of Trustees members, Foundation Board members, Union representatives and Coraggio Group consultants.

Who is the Coraggio Group and how were they selected?

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was produced to find an experienced consultant to design and oversee this project. Nine responses were received and reviewed by a committee that included faculty, administrators and students. The committee picked [Coraggio Group](#).

Who is Kari St. Peters and how was she selected?

In addition to the consulting firm, it was important to have an internal project manager with working knowledge of PSU. Kari St. Peters has been at the University for nearly three years and most recently worked on [ReThink Provost Challenge](#) projects.

How are decisions made?

Primary decision-making rests with the [Strategic Plan Development Team \(SPDT\)](#). The chair has authority to determine whether a decision has achieved general consensus of the group. Topic teams will tackle individual themes put forward by the Development Team. Those teams also will operate on the basis of general consensus to move items forward to the larger committee. In the case that an already standing PSU committee becomes a topic team, it will use its governance structure to make decisions. In each case, those who disagree with a general consensus decision may submit minority reports. The draft plan also will go through a public comment period.

Once a draft plan is given to President Wiewel, he will have the option of sending it back for more work or clarification, or forwarding it to the Board of Trustees, which has ultimate authority to approve the new strategic plan.

How was the Strategic Plan Development Team created?

The goal was to ensure that the membership of this team was representative of the university in as many ways as possible. At the same time, the size of the group had to be kept small enough so that meetings could be effective, and would allow everybody's opinion to be heard.

Members were nominated by several campus groups, including the Faculty Senate, deans and other members of the ALT, ASPSU, AAUP, SEIU, AFT, the President's Executive Committee, and the Office of Global Diversity and Inclusion. Nominees were assessed across a set of criteria that looked at gender diversity, ethnic diversity, diversity of school/division representation, union representation, and role at the university (student, faculty, staff, administrator, board member). To the degree possible, we sought to identify individuals who would be able to represent several points of view. More than 100 were nominated, from which about 30 were selected.

In what ways can I participate?

Keep tabs on what's happening by visiting the [main calendar](#) for strategic planning, which lists all meetings and related events. It also includes links to the [newsletter](#) and to an interactive page where you can [register questions](#). Later, there will be opportunities to participate in town hall meetings and online surveys. Once a draft plan is finished, it will be sent out for public comment.