CAL POLY

Implications & Opportunities for Leadership
October 17, 2014 – Synthesis of Notes from Second Discussion

Academic Majors and Careers
Review the results of the first discussion groups, particularly the global and regional issues and demographic trends. Discuss the implications and opportunities for Cal Poly’s academic programs, majors and its future students and graduates. What will we be preparing our graduates to do? What competencies will they need? What kinds of careers will we be preparing our students for? What level(s) of education will they need?

Holistic Education
Review the results of the first discussion groups, particularly the global and regional issues and demographic trends. Discuss the implications and opportunities for educating students to be successful members of global society. What competencies will our graduates need? What does this imply for the kind of holistic, interdisciplinary education experience that Cal Poly envisions, including its residential community?

Response Format: Group the ideas you have identified according to their significance for Cal Poly.

The responses to the academic majors and careers and the holistic education prompts were very similar, so the following highlights reflect both groups (eight discussion tables).

General Competencies
• Global Awareness and Cultural Competence – most frequently listed by far as an area for future development
• Problem-Solving; Critical Thinking – noted both as an important continuity with present practice and an opportunity
• Career Readiness and Adaptability – including acknowledgment of how work and workplaces change over a career
• Life Skills – another area for development covers a range of skills that help students prepare for life, such as ethical behavior, reflection, and social responsibility, balance
• Communication, Collaboration, and Other Soft Skills – recognizing current practice, and focusing on future development, both while students (e.g., with faculty) and as professionals
• Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Innovative Thinking, Change Management – noted as areas for development
Specialized Knowledge and Competencies

- Information Technology – particularly, keeping up with technological change and how information technology is applied in their careers, including societal implications
- Environment (including foot, energy, sustainability) and Engineering – two important knowledge areas for the future
- Health and Aging – recognition of how anticipated demographic change creates new career opportunities

Teaching and Learning Practices

- Integrated Learning; Education Beyond a Single Discipline – most frequently listed by far as a critical aspect of education, both currently and in the future; implications for facilities (teaching space) as well as majors and curriculum
- Learn by Doing – touted as a Cal Poly strength that can and should continue to evolve; incorporating new technologies; closely connected with applied learning and problem-solving
- High Impact Practices – reinforcement and extension of lab and studio settings, teamwork, and mentoring
- Faculty Development and Support – continuous learning, review of RPT as a reflection of what the University values

Other Opportunities for Consideration (mentioned once)

- Connecting co-curricular activities with academic curriculum
- Collaboration/mentoring of middle and high school students
- More post-baccalaureate education in specialized fields
- Industry partnership opportunities, cautioned by implications for academic freedom
- Replacement of undergraduate major declaration on entrance with curricular clusters
- Integration of undergraduate fifth year for professional practice
- More flexible, nimble curriculum structure
Institutional Leadership

Review the results of the first discussion groups, particularly the factors affecting higher education and the global and regional issues. Discuss the non-instructional institutional implications and opportunities for Cal Poly. What are Cal Poly’s leadership opportunities in terms of how it functions as a university, supports faculty and staff, provides technical support, manages its land and facilities, etc.?

Cal Poly’s Identity – The University’s future leadership depends on sustaining Cal Poly’s identity
- Premier comprehensive polytechnic
- Learn by Doing
- Recruitment of the best and brightest
- Residential campus (although some suggested reconsideration)
- Career-ready graduates

Financial Security and Management
- Sustainable financial support – moving away from dependence on state funding
- Improved compensation for faculty and staff
- More flexibility in allocating resources
- More partnerships

Leadership and Organization
- Internal leadership development
- Professional development for staff and faculty
- A more adaptable organization
- “Best place to work” – the campus as a community
- Collegiality and shared governance – faculty and students
- Data-driven decision-making
- Handling state and CSU policies and requirements

Physical Master Plan and Space Management
- Managed growth
- Collaborative learning spaces
- Sustainable buildings and operations
- Improved internal circulation and external access
- Community relations

Technology - Funding and support for implementing and learning new technologies

Student Services – student success
- Advising, career services, etc. to support changing student demographics
- New models for helping students finance their education (debt-free)