

OCCASIONAL CAMPUS COMMUNIQUE

September 5, 2013

The President's Perspective – A Brief Reflection

Two years ago during an early summer retreat the university's senior leadership team outlined some early, initial thoughts we anticipated might frame North Park's next institutional plan. One of the topics we considered important revolved around the nature of North Park as a workplace. When it comes to knowing North Park as a place of employment, and when it comes to considering what values we want to characterize our work with colleagues across the campus—what do we identify? What kind of work culture do we envision at North Park?

This isn't a question we're naturally drawn to because in large measure so much of our thinking is directed toward students (rather than to ourselves and our colleagues). Of course this is the way it should be. But it is also important, from time to time, to consider how we work best with each other, what values we envision for our workplace.

The several items the senior team identified at that retreat, now some two years ago, are not featured in our new institutional plan. But they are included in an appendix where we identify them as "cultural markers" of the North Park workplace.

At North Park we are primarily focused on our students, so student learning and student life must be featured in our institutional plan. But how well we approach our goals for student learning likely is often influenced by how well we work together. So...though placed in an appendix, these values that can guide our work together may in fact be a critical component to the institutional plan.

With this in mind, through this academic year I will identify two of these cultural markers at the beginning of each month's occasional communique. This will give us the year to be reminded of these values. We'll see them two at a time, in the middle of our daily and weekly routine, which is perhaps when we most need to hear them.

Here, then, are the first two cultural markers—values to shape our life of work together at North Park.

Cultural Markers frame our life together and guide institutional decision-making, foster work relationships, and enliven the anatomy of life and learning at North Park.

(1) Follow Mission

We build on our missional foundation and are guided by the vision, core values, and educational ideals that have set the University's trajectory for the past century. By judiciously applying this legacy to ever-changing contemporary social realities we

will advance educational programs and adopt approaches to teaching and learning that reflect historic institutional commitments while featuring the needs and interest of today's students.

(2) Center on Students

Students are our primary constituency; without students we have no mission or identity as an educational institution. The effectiveness of any program or initiative will be measured by its contribution to promoting and sustaining student learning.

MondayCoffee@10

It's a not-to-miss gathering. Walk to Magnuson dining room with your colleagues, pour yourself a cup of coffee, and find another colleague to visit with for a few minutes. Then 30 minutes later meet up again with your work colleagues and walk back to your workplace.

It's as simple as that, but what a great tradition it will be. It starts on Monday, September 9, at 10:00 a.m. And it will continue every Monday morning through the rest of the semester...with a break for the New Year...and then resume for the spring semester.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Campus Forums on Institutional and Enrollment Planning

Last school year over 25 groups came together to discuss a draft of our institutional plan. Based on the input received through these discussions the draft plan was widely revised and reformatted. In the process it has become a more helpful and accessible document, and one that you'll want to know about.

Simultaneous to the discussions about institutional planning a group of 20 or so colleagues from several departments were invited to dedicate extensive effort to a project we've called Strategic Enrollment Planning. This project is about student recruitment, but it's about a lot more as well. Topics include how we position the university in the higher education marketplace, what new areas of study we might want to consider, how we can best assure student success through graduation, how technology and learning can best go hand-in-hand, and, as you suspect, how we recruit students. All of this is about students at every level—undergraduates, graduates, and seminarians.

The results and ongoing efforts of these two projects are being presented to faculty and staff in a number of venues, as listed below. Everyone is especially welcome to attend one of the three Group Forums scheduled for this coming week. Please join us (and enjoy some popcorn!)

Group Forums

- Monday, September 9 – 3:00-4:30 p.m. – Magnuson Dining Room
- Thursday, September 12 – 9:00-10:30 a.m. – Magnuson Dining Room
- Friday, September 13 – 9:00-10:30 a.m. – Magnuson Dining Room

Other Presentations

- Dean's Council: August 12
- Development Office Team: September 4
- Enrollment, Marketing, and Athletics Staff: September 5
- Faculty Senate: September 11

\$5 Lunch – Every Weekday

With the wonderful renovation of the Magnuson Dining Room this summer faculty and staff are invited to join their colleagues and students for lunch on weekdays throughout the fall and spring semesters. Payment is via each employee's university ID card. Cards for full-time employees have been preloaded with \$25. Subsequent meals can be purchased with funds deposited by each faculty and staff member. Bon a petit!

University Convocation

Early each fall semester we sponsor a convocation to recognize the special achievements of our colleagues. This year is no exception.

Please plan to attend the University Convocation at 10:30 a.m. on September 16. The program will be held in Anderson Chapel. The accomplishments of the following individuals will be recognized:

Faculty Promoted or Appointed to Tenure

- Angelyn Bartolomei
- Karl Clifton-Soderstrom
- James Dekker
- Gianfranco Farruggia
- Ann Hicks
- Alvin Kamienski
- Timothy Johnson
- Catherine Marsh
- Kelly Potteiger
- Rachel Schmale
- Theodore Zervas

Authors of Recently Published Books

- Ann-Marie Andreasson-Hogg
- Cherita Banton
- Karen Bauer
- Deena Marie Carr
- Linda J. Craft
- Paul De Neui
- Penelepe Hung
- Thomas W. Jefferson
- Rajkumar Boaz Johnson
- Barbara Levandowski
- Lida V. Nedilsky
- Klyne Snodgrass
- Joel Willitts

New Administrative Appointment

- Jodi Koslow Martin

The convocation offers a great time of celebration! Let's gather to applaud our colleagues!