

Academic Reorganization
Summary of Campus-wide Meetings about Department Missions and Core Values
February 27, 28, and March 1, 2017

These discussions were intended to help people gain a better understanding of what the various academic departments and programs on the campus do and value.

Members of twelve departments attended the discussions.

Few of the people in attendance had read through the documents submitted by departments prior to the meetings. For this reason, the discussions were used to familiarize those in attendance with the departments that were in attendance. Each department was invited to describe what they do, their mission, and what they value. Many departments also discussed institutional issues and challenges they face. At the end of each discussion, the faculty leaders summarized themes they heard and asked those in attendance if they agreed those were the themes and for any amendments to the list of themes.

Themes identified during the discussions (in no particular order)

- 1) Community engagement, including internships and co-ops, and community outreach are important parts of what departments do. Community engagement and community outreach means being out in the community and bringing people to campus.
- 2) Departments want to help students:
 - a) Figure out what they want to be,
 - b) Prepare them for what comes next (whether a job or more education), and
 - c) Get them to graduation.
- 3) Students should have a chance for a well-rounded education. This means equipping students with analytical and expressive skills, introducing students to a range of knowledge, and teaching students disciplinary content.
- 4) Departments need to be more conscious of what students want and changes in the discipline. Some changes are mandated by changes to laws (e.g. requirements to be a k-12 teacher). Other changes are about career opportunities (e.g. actuarial sciences). Still others are about shifts in the research, creative endeavor, and teaching within the discipline.
- 5) Departments should be thinking about how they can contribute to the mission of IPFW.
- 6) There is a desire for diversity of people and thought.
- 7) There are institutional factors that must be considered when discussing structure.
 - a) Accreditation
 - b) Complexity of budget which can include a variety of sources of revenue (internal and external) and types and numbers of expenditures
 - c) Job placement (Is it specific to a profession or is it broader?)
 - d) Facilities (labs, theaters, production space)