

Strategic Planning and Assessment Council

Goals for 2021-2022

1. Re-Envisioning Academic Program Development, Review, and Evaluation

The pandemic has upended many time-honored higher education practices, pushing colleges like SUNY New Paltz to reinvent the way we teach, work, and interact with students and with each other. It has made clear that innovation, rigor, and growth are possible, and often necessary, during challenging times. Although arduous, many of the individual and institutional changes we have made during the pandemic have been energizing and transformative. Still, we recognize more must be achieved if we are to be successful in the post-pandemic academic landscape.

The pandemic refocused attention to the need to alter academic policies and procedures that slow or hinder programmatic growth and institutional sustainability. Despite attention and effort to improve the program development, review, and approval processes, substantial disaffection exists with these procedures. Concerns range from consecutive levels of review and excessive paperwork to repetitive governance processes. Realizing that that curricular and policy reviews are difficult, sensitive, and require a delicate balancing of concerns, President Donald P. Christian and Interim Provost Barbara G. Lyman have charged the Strategic Planning and Assessment Council (SPAC) to lead the campus in reimagining a comprehensive program review process that includes input from all stakeholders. The primary goal of a restructured program review and approval process is to facilitate more nimble responses to opportunities resulting in creative programs that are responsive to regional needs, including those of underserved populations. Such a process will also promote and maintain rigor; honor faculty governance and administrative oversight; address institutional capacity; and attend to financial, human, and physical resource needs as well as sustainability.

As this would be a comprehensive review and overhaul of the campus's program development, review, and approval processes, the SPAC will lead and support efforts to:

1. Document the full range of organizational structures and academic procedures, policies, and timelines associated with program development, review, and approval.
2. Recommend a restructured path for program development, review, and approval that is responsive to agile decision-making accommodating much needed flexibility and adaptability in a fluid higher education landscape. Such a pathway would address issues of campus governance and external regulatory and compliance contexts.
3. Develop a plan to disseminate information to the campus community about support for program development, review, and approval.

2. Strengthen coordination between strategic planning goals and priorities and institutional targets/metrics/assessments

The SPAC will continue supporting administrative and academic/academic support units to connect their planning goals to broader campus goals and to targets/metrics/assessments (e.g., connecting

retention, sustainable development, general education (GE), and program goals to meaningful targets/metrics/assessments). The SPAC will:

1. Support departments to incorporate appropriate metrics in their assessment plans and to use findings from their assessments.
2. Incorporate findings from assessments carried out across the campus into a campus wide strategic planning and assessment report.
3. Disseminate and discuss progress in attaining strategic plan goals and priorities.

3. Planning with Global Goals

The SPAC will continue to develop a shared knowledge/vocabulary around the United Nations Sustainable Development goals (SDGs), especially Goal 4 (Quality Education) and the framework's strength in making connections between global, local, and institutional goals.

Specifically:

1. Develop language recognizing the institution's commitment to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development on the College's Strategic Planning website.
2. Continue to offer information and resources to campus to develop shared understanding.
3. Capture and highlight the full range of campus activities that relate to GGs.
4. Work with Communication & Marketing to highlight GG connections across campus.
5. Continue to engage the campus community with the GGs through presentations, workshops, training.
6. Develop and publish a GG's information page.
7. Continue to integrate the GG work we currently do into campus culture and resources.
 - a. Develop designation for courses that include sustainability content
 - b. Begin to discuss with GE Board using GG's as framework, based on Compositions' work
8. Develop a unit-level planning process.
 - a. Use Penn State Guide as a base, incorporating other resources, develop working model of a campus unit-level planning guide.
 - b. Pilot guide with selected units, depending on planning process.
9. Integrate SDG goals related to the institutional priorities of diversity and inclusion more fully into every component of strategic planning.
10. Present a workshop on Exploring and Connecting with the Sustainable Development Goals.