Strategic Plan

VFTH

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A Comprehensive Advising Program is one of the biggest headlines to come out of WKU’s Strategic Plan recently unveiled for the first time.

Amy Bingham has more on what the plan means to the university and the process by which it was created in this week’s View from the Hill.

This document (hold up papers) is being called a ten year road map for WKU. Aptly titled “Climbing to Greater Heights”, it’s literally a way forward and as President Timothy Caboni says, it makes sure students are at the heart of everything we do.

“I want Western Kentucky University to be best known for how we change students lives.”

WKU President Tim Caboni highlighted major parts of the strategic plan at the annual convocation.

“This effort truly was a bottom up process and one that required your trust and your participation. “

The two people Dr. Caboni trusted to lead the strategic planning steering committee were Paula Potter and Bruce Schulte.

“The way the process started obviously is we got a new President. He decided pretty early before he was hired that the strategic plan was necessary to get the ship moving in the right direction.”

Nearly 100 people from all walks of campus began meeting last fall to come up with a plan to guide the university through the next decade.

“This whole process was meant to be aspirational and it truly was because we could not have gotten where we were today without those groups.”

With an aggressive time line of having the plan in place in time for the 2018 convocation, the groups powered through at the same time budget issues were happening.

“We had to tell them we’re not involved in budget cuts. We’re trying to plan for beyond that phase of the University.”

Lots of opportunity for feedback was provided throughout the process and Potter says themes quickly became evident.

“It was very clear that being focused on students was why we were here and what we were about.”

In addition to students, the other themes in the plan are the hill and the community.

“You bring in people who are gonna climb that hill, then you are gonna give them a destination then a reason to keep going and a skill set to get there.”

It all starts with moving to a first and second year Comprehensive Advising Program.

“Advising has to be about more than navigating schedules and course taking. We must take a holistic approach and help students manage the social, personal, financial and academic aspects of college success.”

One of many student success tactics in the overall strategic plan.

“Every goal and strategy is about helping our students succeed.”

If you would like to read the strategic plan for yourself, log onto www-dot-wku-dot-edu-slash-strategic plan.

Dr. Caboni says this fall an implementation team will be assembled to fully execute the plan and ensure the university stays on track.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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