



Sonoma State University
Points of Evidence: Line of Inquiry I - Identity / Distinctiveness
February - October 2017

Note to WASC Team: These Points of Evidence are designed to demonstrate the work accomplished on this Line of Inquiry since February 2017, when the *Institutional Report* was submitted. The speed of change on campus makes these Points of Evidence useful.

Points of Evidence:

Pillars for ILOs and Strategic Planning

SSU has identified a series of “pillars” around which we anticipate our strategic planning will revolve. These pillars are consonant with our campus identity as a member of the Council on Public Liberal Arts Colleges, as a sponsor of collaboration and innovation, and as a campus that focuses on the liberal arts and sciences while offering and promoting applied liberal arts and professional degree programs. We also anticipate that these pillars will form the basis for our discussions about Institutional Learning Outcomes:

- Arts Integration
- Community Engagement and Civic Learning
- Diversity
- High Impact Practices: first-year and sophomore-year experiences; learning communities; writing-intensive courses; collaborative assignments and projects; undergraduate research; diversity/global learning; service-learning; internships; capstone projects
- Leadership Development
- Pedagogical Innovation: hybrid and online courses, courses using the new Makerspace, additional technology enhanced classrooms
- Sustainability (social justice, economic equity, environmental awareness)

Arts Integration

- Incorporating activities and events held at the Green Music Center into the curriculum and co-curriculum across all the academic schools
- Faculty are reshaping syllabi to include GMC activities, contextualizing the events and providing experiential learning opportunities

COPLAC

- SSU President and AVP for Academic Programs attended Winter and Summer meetings of COPLAC to revitalize the relationship
- SSU is now represented on the Executive Board of COPLAC

Social Justice

- Campus Life has developed a Social Justice Film Series for 2017-18 and is working with faculty and students to develop a social justice event around sports and sweatshops for January 2018
- School of Education has realigned its mission and core direction towards advancing social justice efforts in our schools and communities

Community Engagement and Civic Learning

- Campus Civic Action Plan developed and approved by President
- Two Faculty Fellows, four AmeriCorps VISTAs and a part time Administrative Coordinator hired to support growth of Center for Community Engagement (CCE)
- Assessment plan for CCE in development
- Civic engagement Institutional Learning Outcomes drafted for review during strategic planning process
- CCE Strategic Action Committee reconvened Fall 2017 to develop measurable work plans for implementing Campus Civic Action Plan

Sustainability

- Prioritized and advanced relationships in contracts and procurement culminating in the writing of a campus “Sustainability Filter Policy” to further a culture of sustainability at SSU
- Planning for a Sustainability Minor began in collaboration with the proposed CSU Cooperative Minor in California Sustainability
- Campus as a Living Lab (CALL) grant projects, funded by the CSU Office of Sustainability, led to student research and projects.
- New WATERS Collaborative 3-year contract to engage students across campus in sustainability projects. Each year the collaborative supports roughly 500 students in 46 water-related projects with 25 faculty (26 courses, 11 departments, and 3 schools). (New contract started in January 2017).
- Expanded opportunities for students across campus to reconnect with local environments and work on regional sustainability projects at SSU preserves: facility planning and \$350K in funding to increase capacity for students at Fairfield Osborn Preserve facilities and new overnight campground and trail at the Galbreath Wildlands Preserve.

Diversity

- Summer Bridge program funded through Graton Rancheria for EOP and Native American students, including a component at the Fairfield Osborn Preserve [See **Points of Evidence - Line of Inquiry V - Diversity** for further details]
- After gaining HSI status in February, Sonoma State applied for and has received a \$2.75 million grant from the federal government, one of only 17 grants awarded in this round of funding, for a program named PUERTA, Preparing Underrepresented Educators to Realize Their Teaching Ambitions. The goal is to increase the pipeline of Latino students prepared to attend college, succeed, and become teachers in public elementary and secondary schools. [Also mentioned in **Points of Evidence - Line of Inquiry V - Diversity**]

Seawolf Commitment

- Designed to foster an “open and inclusive environment”; focuses on Integrity, Respect, Excellence, and Responsibility
- Senate endorsed the Seawolf Commitment on April 6, 2017
- Dispute Resolution Board is meeting with department chairs to promote academic integrity

- Academic Integrity process revised to include a negotiated resolution that helps close the feedback loop with faculty and students
- Student Conduct Administrator hired in spring 2017 (new position)

General Education

- GE Subcommittee completed Program Review process
- External Review (Dr. LoriBeth Way, SFSU), due early fall 2017
- Action Plan for GE Reform underway related to changes required for CSU Chancellor's Office Executive Order - Revised 1100 [See **Revised EO 1100, FAQ from Chancellor's Office related to Revised EO 1100, and SSU document "EO 1100 - Implications and Actions" in WSCUC Team Box Folder for Line of Inquiry I - Identity / Distinctiveness**]

Academic Programs

- SSU is seeking permission to offer a new interdisciplinary B.A. in Geography and Environmental Planning. The departments of Geography and Environmental Studies have merged and are ending two majors and beginning at least one new one
- 15 departments have proposed major changes to curriculum in the last 6 months
- The M.A. in Kinesiology will be discontinued during 2017-18
- Multiple changes and discontinuances related to minors and concentrations, with many changes in concentrations resulting from a new Executive Order from the CSU Chancellor's Office (EO 1071).

Graduate Education

- SSU held Graduate Studies Retreat, May 19, 2017
 - Conducted strategic planning exercises (SWOT analysis, goals, action steps) [See **PBAC Enrollment Trends for State-Support Programs in the WSCUC Team Box Folder for Line of Inquiry I - Identity / Distinctiveness**]
 - Identified need for Graduate Learning Outcomes, development of which is being taken on this fall by Graduate Studies Subcommittee
- Renewed Membership in Western Association of Graduate Studies (Summer 2017)
- Plan to participate in WAGS Thesis Competitions and hold a Graduate Studies Recognition Program (Spring 2018)
- SSU has been given permission to offer a new graduate degree, the M.A. in Film Studies, beginning January 2018

See also the **List of Programs housed in the School of Extended and International Education in the WSCUC Team Box Folder for Line of Inquiry I - Identity / Distinctiveness.**