

Notes from Conversation with Debi Cartwright Chair of the Curriculum Commission

Prompt: What are some of the trends in higher education that your group discovered in their work.

- The importance of critical thinking and other higher order thinking skills
- Strategies for pulling themes together through class clusters or other interdisciplinary opportunities
- Facilitating opportunities for transformational experiences
- Overall, it was clear that the “how of teaching” was often as important as the “what of teaching” – engaging pedagogies
- Many universities have created common experiences that bind students in communities helping them to make their educational experience relevant and personally meaningful for them
- There is also widespread recognition of the importance of preparing students for practicing skills and applying learning to really life situations
- Concepts of branding are important in marketing an institution such as helping students make connections among classes and experiences, finding meaning in what they are learning, and receiving a personalized education that they can apply to their lives.
- Many schools are requiring international/internship experiences to help student prepare for their professional careers.
- Technology is huge – challenge at Truman to provide the necessary resources (bandwidth) and training for faculty

SPAC will need to keep in touch with Undergraduate Council and some of the initiatives they are working on that are relevant to strategic planning. (Jay Self and Royce Kallerud contact people).