

Threads and Themes  
2010 SPAW Breakout Groups

1) **Transformational Learning Experiences/The “Truman Experience” (7)**

- High impact experiences, enhanced learning experiences
- High quality education
- Small classes and personal attention
- Students should be partners in their education
- Examine current assessment activities to better understand faculty-student interactions
- Provide alternate modes of learning, such as hybrid courses
- Prepare students for a global economy in other ways beyond traditional study abroad - Semester Away/“Domestic Study Abroad”

**Student Recruitment and Retention (7)**

- Recruiting underrepresented groups, increasing presence of international students
- Using faculty more effectively in recruiting and networking
- Improve retention through mentoring and by alleviating their fear of faculty
- Efforts to ensure a welcoming community
- Recruitment through new innovative programs

2) **Assessment, Evaluation, Data (6)**

- Produce and communicate relevant data for decision making
- Create metrics for monitoring progress toward goals
- Create an entity responsible for providing direction to the campus in making informed changes/Office of Institutional Research
- Improve budgeting process
- Use evidence and assessment outcomes to guide and inform decision-making

**Faculty Development and Support (6)**

- Hiring new faculty
- Concerns about pensions
- Concerns about hiring contingent faculty
- Program to recruit new faculty from historically African-American or Hispanic university program

3) **External Relationships and Support (5)**

- Creating effective partnerships within the community
- Create more community outreach opportunities that bring people to campus (additional revenue streams as well)
- Stronger relationship with Missouri S & T – where gender balance of students is the reverse of ours

4) **Student Support (4)**

- Mental health, stress issues
- Personal and social development/helping students be well-balanced

**Communication (Internal and External) (4)**

- Raising visibility beyond campus
- Improve flow of communication on campus and off campus
- Highlight how the Truman Experience will be transformational
- Marketing who we are on a national level

**Pedagogy (4)**

- Focus on pedagogy
- Enhanced and effective use of technology in teaching
- Increase the use of student assistants and student support
- Provide support for faculty (e.g., student assistance) as needed to develop and use varied pedagogical approaches
- Support for field-based courses with mobile components and other forms of enhanced technology

**5) Sustainability (3)**

- Environmental issues
- Human and natural capital
- Emerging technologies (e.g., biodiesel on campus)
- Enhances student engagement
- Enhances quality of life

**Curriculum (3)**

- Reduce requirements
- Shrink the curriculum
- Expand depth of study, reduce anxiety
- Opportunities for experimentation without negative consequences
- Focus on and support strong programs
- Use pilot programs to create cutting edge curricular changes

**Revenue Enhancement (3)**

- Continuing education opportunities