

**Strategic Planning Task Force
Allegany/Garrett Sportsman Association (16 individuals present)
Frank Ammer and Jennifer Browne**

What are your perceptions of FSU?

- Very well. I've lived here all my life, and I've seen a lot of graduates (1956)—all became teachers
- Very helpful for our community
- Vital part of Frostburg community
- Would like to see more involvement with Garrett County
- Perception of lower standards for admission
- Unruly Students
- Grown tremendously in the past 30 years—has grown they're doing something right
- It is one of the premier schools in the area. I employ FSU students in the summer
- Whitewater course—they are good employees, but they start back to school too soon
- Big industry for Frostburg
- I haven't really thought about it

What is the academic reputation of FSU?

- Very good
- In the past high, not sure it is at that level now
- Reputation diminished
- Good reputation in western Maryland
- It wouldn't be Frostburg without the college
- Most of the teachers I had in school were from Frostburg. They were very well educated, very sharp
- It's good. I've never heard anything bad

What is FSU's niche?

- The BSN is the new thing. Wife is professor at ACM. She talks very highly about that
- The wildlife program students are very well respected in their field when they come out of FSU
- I've had a lot of friends and classmates graduate from there. They've had nothing but good things to say about the college
- Natural resources programs
- Rural State University
- Education and teacher training

What is something that FSU should be talking about that we aren't?

- We have to get away from the political stuff—the students should be educated in civics, but the colleges should be less liberal
- My opinion is very biased, but when the semester starts is too early. When my FSU students have to return, they are always gone by the 3rd week of August. The students need to work.

- WE need the workers, it is an opportunity for students to get that job, if they went back later, they could work longer.
- Not all of the students who attend are well to do, and they have to work.
- There should be more emphasis on taking care of the party houses/off-campus housing—too many parties and commotion is what I read in the paper. Frostburg is working with FSU to resolve that problem, but we have people coming from all different directions in the state and from different cultures and not all of them quite agree. What I read and hear is that most of the problem is coming from Baltimore—I'm just going on hearsay and what I read
- Dorm life issues (roommates, poor living conditions)
- Promote higher standards – make things equal among applicants

What risks must FSU take to ensure survival?

- They ought to communicate with parents. If they don't have the parents involved, they won't solve many of the problems. Kids are turned loose, and parents send them money and forget about them
- Risk losing mediocre students
- Modification to curriculum. Look into some other niche type curricula that they don't currently offer. Leading edge technology that is coming up. (someone else interjected) They have some diverse courses.
- They need to continue those types of develop of curricula to ensure survival.
- Maybe not just the university, but somewhere in the community there should be ways for people be re-trained—those who lost jobs or those who have a disability—there should be someplace local to be re-trained on another skill. Veterans assistance, VA to help honorably discharged veterans to help pay for their education. The diesel institute pays for Vets to go to school. Frostburg could do something like this. If you get injured at work and you can't do your job anymore, you should be able to do something else to help support your family.
- AC 20 years ago was toying with the idea of vocational training—they had welders, brick layers—maybe that's something that they should consider.

What should we be unwilling to change?

- High standards. Scholastic achievement
- Keep the reputation
- Make the students work, don't just push them through for the money
- People know that Frostburg graduates are well prepared
- Should consider all they good things they do in the community, doing a fairly good job of that
- That's a two bladed knife—it does good for the community—but sometimes there is trouble - Have to take the good with the bad
- The students are involved, food pantry drive at the Methodist church
- Grandkids did well elsewhere

What do we say we do that we do that we don't do?

- Who is responsible for the destruction that students do? Do they hold anyone liable? The renter? The owner? Some of that should go back to the students if they do damage. The parents should sign a statement that they will be responsible for damage that students do. I wrote

Roscoe Bartlett years ago and told him that he had to get the parents to be responsible for the situation

- Reduce risky drinking – Police say they have not seen a change
- The university has been there for years, if anything new came up, I don't know what it would be
- Besides money, what are the university's main problems?
- Snow removal
- Beautiful campus that has everything going for it
- I don't know about the professors, I haven't been there
- Between the professors and the place itself, I think that it is nice
- I don't know what the fees are, but that might be a problem
- The campus has really grown. IT was only 3 buildings when I was young
- Parking is an issue

List 3 words associated with FSU. Why?

- Commitment
- Integrity
- Quality
- Quality education
- Party
- Industry
- History

What is FSU's legacy?

- Their students. The quality of their students. The upper level of their students
- I don't know what percentage of kids get jobs when they leave there. They don't necessarily work in their fields. I don't know if they know what they want to do
- I don't know what kind of counseling they get there. I feel like my grandchildren should have had more (at Virginia Tech). They took classes just to take classes, but they needed more guidance in what to take. Class counseling—what classes to take. When I went to high school, I didn't talk to a guidance counselor until I was ready to leave—at that point, I had decided to go into the military
- When I went to school, the workers in industry made more than teachers, but that isn't the same now
- Student success

Other Ideas?

- To get people to do odd jobs. A program for people to call to have odd jobs done. I'm getting too old to do that kind of work, and it would be good for the students to be paid, and it would help people in the community. We're in an area with a lot of seniors, and things are falling down because their kids are away and can't do the work. It would be good for students to be involved. In other words, just have a job pool
- Representatives of the college should talk to high school classes
- Financial planning is the biggest part for most of them