



ETSU 125

Progressing toward ETSU's 125th Anniversary

ETSU 125 Student Roundtable Meeting Minutes

Tennessee Room – Culp Center | March 20, 2013 | 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Welcome - *Jeremy Ross*

Opening Comments - *Dr. Noland*

- This roundtable is a unique opportunity to bring ideas to the table and have a conversation about our shared vision for ETSU.
- Urged students to think about the question, “25 years from now, when we are celebrating our 125th anniversary, what impact did we as students have on the institution?”

ETSU Student Issues - *Dr. Sherlin*

- Short explanation of Student Life Task Force charge, process, discussions, vision statements/themes, and recommendations

Discussion – *Jeremy Ross to facilitate*

What do you see as ETSU's strengths & why did you come here?

- **Large College but feels like a small college.** Ability to have voice heard. (*Gatton COP Student*)
- **Accessibility.** Lives close to ETSU. The college is accessible to community. (*Adult, Commuter and Transfer Services Representative*)
- **Large school atmosphere but with a down home feeling.** Initially came to ETSU because of Radiography program. Student wasn't necessarily looking to get involved but was surprised and excited by large school atmosphere but with a down home feeling. Student feels comfortable here and ETSU “felt like home”. (*SGA Representative*)
- **Support and Campus Community.** First generation college student. Lived and commuted from Bristol. As a commuter student, didn't feel very involved in student life, lacked support and eventually dropped out. Re-applied, moved to Johnson City, worked to find support on campus and was encouraged to get involved in campus community – involvement has made the difference. (*Equity and Diversity Representative*)
- **Smaller Class Sizes, Supportive Faculty.** Started out graduate/medical school experience with a very large class, felt like a number. ETSU gives the exact opposite impression of a large state med school program. Faculty is supportive and care about students. Class sizes are smaller and students have ability to get to know everyone in the program. (*QCOM Student*)



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- **Sports Physiology and Performance Ph.D. program.** When first applying to college, did not know the difference between UT and ETSU. Ultimately came to ETSU because of Sports Physiology and Performance Ph.D. program. We have number of interesting graduate and doctoral programs – not well known or advertised. (*School of Graduate Studies Representative*)
- **Promotion of Doctoral program in Public Health.** ETSU presented program at conference in Denver and the emphasis on student development, global travel, working on location was the reason the student choose to come here. Had not heard of ETSU prior to the Denver conference and was applying to larger institutions. Not disappointed with the ETSU program or experience. (*International Programs Representative*)

Name one thing we could do to make ETSU a better university?

- **Provide greater support, funding and opportunity for graduate research and support.** One of ETSU's strengths is the support of *undergraduate* research - on the graduate level, same funding and support is not readily available (Outside of QCOM/ GCOP). Would like to see funding to present at conferences. (*International Programs Representative*)
- **Multi-Cultural Center.** The number of marginalized and multi-cultural students on campus is higher than anyone realizes and these students need a place on campus to find support. (*Equity & Diversity Representative*)
 - Dr. Sherlin acknowledged and agreed that the need is great for this type of facility. Envisions a center for education, dialogue, and wide range of programs, modeled on best practices, to be used by entire campus community.
 - Dr. Noland stated that part of ETSU 125 process is prioritization of the different recommendations. Suggested that a Multi-Cultural Center was a 1-5 year priority for the university.
- **Encourage students to study abroad more and gain global perspective.** ETSU offers a multitude of study abroad opportunities and offers support and financial assistance yet the majority of students don't travel abroad. Only six students from ETSU studied abroad last fall. (*Buctainment Representative*)
- **Advertise events, programs, activities and opportunities to students more effectively.** So many opportunities are available but we (Campus Rec) find marketing to students difficult. Students don't know these activities and opportunities are there to take advantage of. (*Campus Rec Rep*)
 - *This comment spurred an additional conversation on communicating events & opportunities to the students and community. See in next section.*



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- **Market ETSU to High School students using student life perspectives and opportunities.** ETSU students making high school visits? Went to high school in Mountain City - had only heard about academic opportunities but never heard about ETSU from a student standpoint/perspective. Didn't know about extracurricular activities until getting to campus. (*SGA Rep*)
 - High School students need an emotional buy – in to a university that ties them to an institution. (*Community Service Programs Rep*)
 - ETSU actively needs to be represented at College Fairs. (*Buclainment Rep*)
- **Introduce a theme of consistency.** Level of consistency is very hit or miss in terms of communicating to campus community - Information, logos, branding. (*Community Service Programs Rep*)
- **Require a course for entering students to learn where to find resources, support, tutoring, mentors, facilities, activities.** All students take ETSU 1000. (*Preview and Orientation Leader Organization Rep*)
- **Create a place for adult students and commuters on campus.** Adult Student population rising. Adult and Commuter students not represented and supported well on campus. Feeling of “*This is a place you visit every day, not your home*”. (*Adult, Commuter and Transfer Services Rep*)
 - Agrees with above comment. These students need to be acknowledged and given support. (*Community Service Program Rep*)

What could we do to better communicate to students, faculty & staff and campus community?

- Find an alternate to PlanItETSU. People don't read their email, people don't use PlanItETSU, students are searching for activities.
- Text Messaging Service. Text Activities and Events. Lots of students agreed on this option.
- Too many emails from ETSU, about 5 a day. Don't even read them anymore. If we add text messages on top of lots of emails, it could cause more problems than it could fix. Opt in model?
- Facebook? Social Media in general – FB, Twitter, Text Msg.
- There are TV's all over the Culp, but they are usually playing talk shows. Use these TV's to communicate activities and events to students.
- Pace of information on video boards moves too slow.
- D2L – News Feed on Homepage. Students go to D2L everyday versus Goldlink, ETSU homepage.



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- The problem with Facebook is what if people don't want to be friends with ETSU.
- Play school news station and radio station in the Culp. Students are unaware that we have news/radio stations.
- More events and more events publicized so high school kids are aware of ETSU.
- ETSU needs a Central Location on campus to get tickets, find information on events, talk to informed people. So many things are happening on campus and students don't know how to get tickets, where to go.
- Give athletics and event tickets to local businesses to distribute to customers. Get community more involved.
- Give away ETSU Pride stickers, signs. Visibility in community makes an impact.

25 years from now, I would like to see...

- Health Sciences to be fully integrated and interprofessional
- QCOM Building 60 be a community center for all health sciences – gathering & study spaces, work out facility
- A thriving student union
- The Honors college prominent and prestigious
- Every student have a go-to person for mentoring and support
- The Exercise and Sports department will have a modern and state of the art lab facilities not renovated racquetball court
- ETSU more prestigious
- More Research funding – especially Graduate level
- A Center for adults
- A strong and vibrant On-Campus housing community
- A Prestigious Teachers college
- Increased student involvement and engagement
- A sense of pride from all students, faculty and staff, alumni, and community
- Greek life more prominent