

Planning Council Strategic Plan Priorities for FY20

Learning 1: Assess, and improve where needed, student learning of critical knowledge and skills.

Based on our reading of the NWCCU accreditation report, Planning Council members expressed a desire to bring this objective forward again. Assessment of learning outcomes is uneven across the university but critical to our students' and the public's trust. In addition to assessment of learning outcomes in Core and major education, the Council endorses a campus-wide assessment culture.

Discovery 2: Enhance infrastructure in support of research, discovery and creative activities.

As Planning Council discussed opportunities for additional research and creative success, the organization's structure and infrastructure warranted attention. In particular, the Council is focused on increased interdisciplinary collaborations (Integration 2), which may require the institution to think creatively about assignment of credit, cost, and support.

Discovery 3: Expand the scale, breadth and quality of doctoral education.

As in years past, Planning Council elevates doctoral education as an important objective for the university to pursue. While Montana State has made progress on doctoral enrollments, new programs, and awarding of degrees, there remains a need to keep our eyes on this prize as an institution, aligning progress here with related efforts in Learning (2), Discovery (3), and Integration (1).

Stewardship 1: Human Resources. Attract, develop and retain the best faculty and staff to achieve our MSU mission.

Council members continue to see our faculty and staff as integral to all goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, so we have recommended this objective as a priority four years in a row. Although progress has been made on faculty salaries and hiring, faculty and staff place continued emphasis on diversity, recruitment, workload, compensation, and retention. As in years past, Council members express a strong commitment to diversity as an underpinning of the "best faculty and staff" and note that a diverse faculty and staff will also underpin progress on a more diverse student body (Access 2).