Rapid Strategic Planning Workshop
October 26, 2007

<u>Opportunities & Visionary Pursuits – Table 1</u>

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The 4 Goals we identified are:

1.Translating "research to practice" in order to impact:
- Teaching
- Administration
- Learning
- Human Development
- Civic Engagement
- Policy

2. Elevate the status of education as a career at Penn State.

3. Increase capacity of educators to apply principles of learning to emerging technologies.

4. Given the uncertainty and multiplicity of meanings, diversity needs to be a continuing conversation.

Narrative elaboration of each:

1. Translate research to practice…

We are proposing that PSU CoE should be known for having a record of getting research (what we know from empirical study) into practice in the schools and community (whether that community be the global community or more narrowly defined local area). There is already an extensive body of research related to education and learning and one of the challenges of CoEs is to get this research into the hands of those (e.g. teachers, administrators, psychologists, counselors, etc.) providing direct and indirect services to learners of all ages. All too often we are satisfied to produce the research and not concerned with moving our results into the real world of application. Or, we move our results too quickly without adequate proof or replication of results. We

should be sure that we are giving skills and knowledge drawn from solid empirical bases to our students who will move into positions of direct service and/or administrative influence through policy, practice and civic engagement. So, we will not only be generators of new knowledge about the many aspects of learning and teaching, we will also ensure that what is known, is moved to application and practice.

2. Elevate the status of education as a career at Penn State.

The low status of teaching as a profession has long been noted as a problem in the U.S. National efforts to elevate the status of the teaching profession have not had desired effects. However, we feel that local efforts at the university level may hold promise. We are proposing that, given the shortage of individuals to fill many roles/positions in the field of education (e.g. administrators; math, science, and special ed teachers; school psychologists), we take action to motivate freshman and sophomores at PSU to select careers in Education. Recognizing the complex interaction of many variables well beyond the control of the institution, focusing on PSU students (and perhaps pre-PSU students) may lead to more individuals choosing a serious and long-term career in Education (rather than as a fallback or short-term job before going on to law school, etc.).

3. Increase capacity of educators to apply principles of learning to emerging technologies.

We are encouraging "smart" use of technology both in the preparation of education professionals and in what we prepare those professionals to do with technology. We are proposing that we view technology (perhaps this needs to be defined?) as tools that might enhance learning or facilitate learning in non-traditional venues. To do this, education professionals should be well grounded in how humans learn and also how to mesh the capabilities of technology with teaching efforts to maximize learning and growth. Along with this would be study of the effects of various technologies on learning to ensure that learning is either better than or equal to more traditional methods.

4. Given the uncertainty and multiplicity of meanings, diversity needs to be a continuing conversation.

We had a discussion about a vision of PSU CoE as being a good place to work and study (with an emphasis on work). The discussion covered consideration of work conditions for staff and faculty as well as issues related to climate and diversity. There was no agreement at the Table

about how to phrase all of this, and the end result was just that there should be some discussion of what "equity" and "diversity" mean in our university work place, taking into consideration the issues and implications of individual fairness, group representativeness, equality.