Planning and Feedback Session

The purpose of this session was to get input from new employees that were unable to attend the SWOT analysis on 10/18/2011. These eight questions were emailed to the employee.

**Group:** New employees  
**Date:** 10/18/2011  
**Tool:** Questionnaire Emailed  
**# Attendees:** 5

Facilitators: Sarah Olson and Angie Friez

1. What would make BSC the first choice for students, faculty, and staff?
   - In my opinion BSC lacks community involvement. Unless it is a part-time job most of the students seem uninterested in getting to know Bismarck and what it has to offer.
   - Increasing on-campus housing. With the present housing situation in western, ND, availability of on-campus housing at other schools becomes attractive for those students who don’t live in Bismarck – Mandan already.
   - Benefits, staff, faculty – having daycare on site for – students, staff, and faculty. Lower costs for students.
   - Quality of education and smaller class sizes for students. Empowerment and opportunity for faculty and staff.
   - Growing up in the area, BSC was not a school I considered attending because of its reputation as a slacker school; nor did I ever envision myself teaching here. Now that I am here, I realize how great of an institution BSC really is. I do think that further work on the reputation of the school (as seen in small communities in ND) would be a way to make BSC a first choice for many.

2. What is the one thing we need to change at BSC that would enable us to be a great institution?
   - We need to teach more of the history of the school, the student body has no real drive to do anything here other than school work. You don’t feel that sense of fraternity you get at the other schools, and you get that feeling of school pride when you’re at a Bison or Sioux event. UND and NDSU are basically our peers in my opinion when you look at the number of students we have, yet we don’t have the passion of our student body to be Mystics. They have that passion in all their events, from soccer to a bake sale, we don’t. That to me is what will bring the children of Alums back to be our future and that is what we need to do if we intend to be here in the future.
   - I’m not sure about this.
   - One thing in my department is to get rid of paper files. Scanning and attaching contracts to database online.
   - I think it’s already a great institution and the public has a generally favorable opinion of BSC. I hear my former students say they got a good education at BSC.
Stemming from #1, reputation. If we can further improve the reputation of BSC across the state....Other than that, I’m not sure what to say here – we have so much that makes us great.

3. What are two emerging issues that you can anticipate that BSC will have to deal with effectively if it is going to thrive in the future?
   - Traffic and housing.
   - Housing and technological Innovation.
   - Possibly lower students doing class in classroom and more online. Books being on Nooks or other devices.
   - Budget cuts and enrollment
   - Online education (the push for more courses offered online) would be one for sure. I also think with the record enrollments we’ve had, we also have to look at classroom space (rather, the lack of).

4. How would you describe the quality of education provided by BSC?
   - I have attended BSC, U Mary and NDSU and find BSC to be on par or better than both.
   - I’m not familiar enough with it.
   - N/A
   - I spent two stints at BSC as a student and one full year as an instructor and believe that the quality of education at BSC is high.
   - I think each instructor I know strives to provide a high quality of education. Instructors challenge students to do their best, and hope that students rise to the challenge.

5. How well-prepared are BSC students to enter the workforce? Transfer to other colleges?
   - Our Students don’t lack anything as long as they put in the effort to crack the books outside the classroom.
   - Again, I’m not familiar, but I think they are prepared.
   - Unsure about workforce since I didn’t go to college here. Though with a four year degree it took me a while to find a job when I did the job didn’t require any college experience. I think transferring BSC students will be well prepared.
   - Some are better prepared than others, but all receive a quality education. How well prepared a student is greatly depends on that particular student and their situation in life. Transferring into other colleges seems to only be a positive situation. The feedback I’ve received tells me students are very well prepared when they arrive at their transfer college.
   - I think most are well-prepared to work, but I would say not all of them are ready to transfer. I look at some of the students I have in my classes and the maturity level is just not there.... and at a 2-year school, that’s really the time to figure that out. By the time those students end up at UND or NDSU, they should be far ahead of where they are (as adults). Along with that, a lack of maturity lends itself to a lack of responsibility. I try to teach that in my courses, but it doesn’t sink in to half of my
students. I worry that they won’t accept responsibility for their own educations, and at a baccalaureate institution, it will not serve them well.

6. How can BSC become more visible in the community and the region?
   - We need to focus more on being part of the community. We invite everyone to come here for events but other than flood assistance what do we do to actually be part of the community. We need to show more support to local activities. Somehow we need to get our student body to engage and embrace community projects. The Drama Dept. works with Art in the park in the summer, why can’t we tie courses together in a project type format. As an example look at the Grant Marsh boat landing, and Pioneer Park they took a beating during the flood. Could we find a way since they are almost adjacent to the campus to get the students behind cleaning them up. Or maybe the Dakota Zoo needs a hand getting things cleaned and ready for winter they took a beating as well. We need to sponsor events like that to thank Bismarck Mandan for what they provide us, which is a great bunch of students that want to learn what we have to teach.
   - Through community involvement, doing volunteering in the community.
   - PR and marketing.
   - Continue to add programs as necessary and stay a partner of the local community and the region. It’s seems BSC has a certain niche in technical education...expanded on that.
   - I think we have a rather high profile. The current administration makes sure we’re seen!

7. What collaborative efforts should BSC pursue with other institutions in the North Dakota University System (NDUS)?
   - We need to get more 4 year programs shared to us through distance Ed. We have lots of options for business, but not many for the sciences. We need to fill out all the courses that we can to get our students done with as many courses in their field of study so that they can short track when they do transfer to complete their degrees. What I mean by this is all of those classes that you need in the 300-400 level that you have to take that help you achieve but aren’t exactly relevant to your field of study. The Seminars that are required about blah, blah, blah. That everyone has to have the box checked in if they are going to be a Biologist, or a chemist that fill you out as a person but when you take them they seem like God this is Dribble. We should set things like that up as part of Distance Ed so when they do transfer it’s done already.
   - We are already involved in the alcohol consortium (NDHESCAP) which is good. Perhaps, teaming up a/ NDSU and UND and Minot too help our students choose where to go after BSC would be good thing to do.
   - I think continue doing what they are doing and maybe get other NDUS colleges helping with the collaborative efforts for more four year degree opportunities.
   - Continue support of online degrees in cooperation with NDUS schools; look to add more if possible.
   - Maybe more bachelor’s degrees – not sure what else we could do.
8. What are your attitudes about online education and why?

- I think Distance Ed is awesome and know many people in the military that have completed all of their needs through it. If there was a way to do more of it I am all for it but we must remember that we are also a books on the desk institution as well and cannot loose what we have built since 1939 just because technology says we can. Some students NEED that in classroom type of instruction you can only get on campus.

- Its good in that it gives students more options, but it also makes students miss out more on the “college experience” if that is the only type of class that they take.

- I think online education is good for certain types of people. I took online courses in college and did well in them and learned from them. On the other hand my husband tried to do an online class and never completed it.

- I believe online education can be a great way to deliver the class to a student in a different region. Online learning can be more challenging than traditional education, but it keeps getting better, and for many students it provides them a way to earn a degree that they may not have had a chance to otherwise.

- I teach online sections and have mixed feelings about the coursework. I really like that personal contact I gain with my students in a classroom setting, and it’s hard to develop the same relationship with an online class. I think the way our department runs online courses is truly beneficial to students (practice tutorials, videos, etc.) but I still think face-to-face classes make students feel more comfortable with my discipline.