1. Welcome and Charge

Dr. Victor DeSantis welcomed everyone to the Council meeting and thanked them for taking time to attend. President Anderson welcomed everyone to the first Strategic Advisory Council (SAC) meeting and expressed his appreciation for their participation. He noted that the goals for workshop were to update everyone on the progress of the strategic plan, Our Bold Path and to identify recommendations to improve the plan strategies. President Anderson reiterated the workshop agenda with the group and noted that key administrators would share the progress of the strategic goals in each of their divisions of the University. He noted that Dr. Matt Pellish, Senior Director of Strategic Research, Education Advisory Board, was there to share his views on our progress and to guide us.

President Anderson noted the charge for the new Strategic Advisory Council and the importance of understanding it:

1) Review updates to strategies as informed by performance indicators and progress towards expected outcomes and provide input to the President and the SPSC on revised or updated strategies;
2) Identify issues that arise from observation of higher education trends and external challenges or opportunities that impact the fulfillment of our mission and achievement of our goals;
3) Align the Middle States Commission on Higher Education decennial and periodic review processes with planning processes. He encouraged everyone to ask themselves, what is my role and what is best for the University as we move forward and how can we share what we need to do with our colleagues. President Anderson thanked everyone for their contributions and for attending the meeting.

2. Presentation of EAB Research: “Agility in Higher Education”

Dr. Laurie Hanich introduced Dr. Matthew Pellish, Senior Director of Strategic Research, Education Advisory Board (EAB)

Dr. Pellish’s presentation shared the highpoints of his research related to our three goals to Engage Learners, Ensure Success, and Embrace Agility. Thought provoking questions were raised such as can we continue to pass on the high costs of today’s education to our customers, how are we responding to the changing demographics of students and what they need and
want; what do we have to do to respond. Are we seeking sustaining frontiers, diversifying today to reach the students of tomorrow? How do we design a model for recruiting? EAB’s analysis indicates that students want flexible delivery, accelerating formats, stackable credentials, and practical real world experience.

3. Update on the Progress on Our Bold Path and what we’ve learned from the Middle States Periodic Review Report (PRR)

Dr. DeSantis introduced the Cabinet members and moderated while each member was asked to give a brief report on what progress their area/department has made. Drs. Adams, Hanich and Shibley provided an update on the Middle States Periodic Review Report. Dr. DeSantis concluded with the statement that we’ve made dramatic progress and all deserve praise for our accomplishments.

4. Discussion

The council broke into groups to discuss and identify suggested strategy improvements and priorities to forward to Cabinet for consideration and to recommend enhancements to the Middle States PRR.

Dr. Pellish distributed questions for each of the Strategic Goals, A, B and C; each group was assigned a goal. Discussion ensued among each group; the groups shared their notes on each of the questions with the council and additional discussion took place.

5. Communicating the Strategic Plan

Drs. Shibley, Hanich and DeSantis thanked the council for their help and for sharing their views on what they see and where they see us going. Dr. Hanich noted that the councils’ job is to serve as liaisons to the campus community. Dr. Anderson shared that the fall session will be more formal with data to share and the first anniversary of the SAC and the new Strategic Plan. He noted that we may have to change or even abandon some of our strategies this fall. He thanked Dr. Pellish for his data and presentation.

6. Adjournment

Dr. Hanich thanked the council and adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.