

Operation Refresh

Campus Community Conversations

Campus Renewal Sessions

August 26 & August 27

Facilitator: S. Joan Penzenstadler

Total participants 17 + 48 = 65

Feedback on Briefing

Questions / comments

- Issue of “bracket” for electricity usage – WE Energies charge will go up if we exceed current bracket
- How do trends present opposing forces & what difficult decisions result? Example: online course delivery vs. physical campus
- Give priority to things that can’t be taught or learned online
- Collaborate with the community – don’t be an “island”
- Set priorities by (1) revenue-generating potential, (2) cost and energy-saving potential, (3) education and technological trends, and (4) safety and health

Hurdles

Grounds look beautiful but when people walk into buildings it’s not a positive impression. Need to create a welcoming atmosphere.

Need a strategic maintenance / grounds plan for 5 years and for 10 years

Creative thinking

Campus community campaign to promote environmental respect (if you’re the last one out, turn out the lights signs, etc.) A campus service day with employees doing cleaning, minor repairs, etc. – noted by two breakout groups

Campaign to raise funds for new windows (“Eyes to the Future”) with donors recognized by nameplate under “their” window. – noted by two breakout groups

Create a sustainable building for a child care center – this would contribute to several areas (community impact, student success, financial vitality and campus renewal). Could include an organic garden and offer on-site field work for education students. An exciting venture – not a reuse of old space – that would make MMC community leader in child care. Note also that parking needs to be next to the door of child care. Could do in partnership with another group or with corporation; goal of 150 children.

Child care – “think big.”

Repurpose old gym as space for bookstore.

Partner with MATC horticulture/landscape program to transform the wooded lot.

Screening – designed by Interior Design students – in tunnels to hide pipes.

Major Themes (as identified by facilitator during conversations)

Community responsibility & pride in grounds and facilities
Attention to detail *right now* not deferred

Collaborations with other organizations (MATC, Growing Power, others) & utilizing student talents

Think creatively and collaboratively – capitalize on ‘in house’ talent as long as individuals are compensated

Outlier

Build a parking structure

Top Themes (as identified by # of references recorded on flip charts / observer notes)

