Dean’s Column: Strategic Plan Summary

After much work from everyone in AYS, the faculty passed the new strategic plan last May by an overwhelming positive vote. The plan articulates four main goals of preparing future leaders, expanding the solid foundation of innovative and interdisciplinary research, raising the profile of AYS globally, and expanding our organizational structures to support academic and research excellence. Based on a series of meetings and sessions with faculty, staff, stakeholders, and students to elicit feedback, the plan was drafted to have relevance for all of the units within our School. Many thanks to the Steering Committee for leading this process to a successful ending.

I am sure that everyone spent their summer wondering – what’s happening with the strategic plan now? Actually, a lot did take place over the summer months. In August, I presented the plan to Provost Palm who provided her support for the plan, and her reflection that we matched the GSU plan well. She did suggest some minor changes in wording. With those suggestions from the Provost, we then presented the plan to the University Administrative Council in early September. The other Deans and University administrators also gave a “thumbs up” to our plan.

The next steps are developing an implementation strategy. Nancy Kropf, our Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Initiatives, and I will be putting together a framework to start this process. If you have thoughts or ideas, please let us know. Keep posted for additional updates about moving forward.

Publications


Presentations

James C. Cox, professor (Economics), director (Experimental Economics Center), and the Noah Langdale Jr. Chair in Economics/Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar, presented “Theory and Experiment for Homo Reciprocans” at a Plenary Address on July 28 at the joint meetings of the Society for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics, International Association for Research in Economic Psychology, and International Confederation for the Advancement of Behavioral Economics and Economic Psychology at Clayton State University.

Bruce Kaufman, professor (Economics) gave two presentations at the annual meeting of the Society for Advancement of Behavioral Economics held at Clayton State University, July 26-28: “Income Inequality and the Recent Economic Crisis” and “The Institutional Model of Labor Markets.”


Glenn Landers, associate project director (Georgia Health Policy Center) presented on the panel titled “Developing/Expanding a Dental Clinic” at the Safety Net Innovations: Future Business Model Option for Free and Charitable Clinics seminar in Macon, Ga., July 26, 2013.

Paul Ferraro, professor (Economics), was the keynote speaker at the international workshop, Evaluación de impacto de políticas ambientales: pensamiento contrafactual, where he presented “La política ambiental basada en evidencia en el siglo XXI,” Santiago, Chile, August 19, 2013.

Paul Ferraro, presented a seminar entitled “Pueden los diseños de datos de panel reproducir los resultados de los diseños experimentales?” at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago, Chile, August 20, 2013.


Kristi Fuller, senior research associate (Georgia Health Policy Center), Clif Burt (Georgia Department of Human Resources) and Suzette Binford (Alzheimer’s Association) presented “Systems Change to Improve Services for People with Early State Alzheimer’s Disease: A Review of Innovative Interventions” at the 2013 Georgia Gerontology Society annual conference in August, Ga., August 13, 2013.
Kristi Fuller and Eric Napierala (Georgia Department of Human Resources) presented the poster “Analysis of Georgia’s Non-Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services,” at the 2013 Georgia Gerontology Society annual conference, Augusta, Ga., August 14, 2013.

Media Hits

Carolyn Bourdeaux, associate professor (Public Management and Policy) and associate director (Fiscal Research Center), was interviewed August 12, 2013, by ABC affiliate (WSB-TV in Atlanta) regarding Atlanta VA Medical Center spending on a charity gala.

Carolyn Bourdeaux contributed an article in the July 2013 issue of Governing magazine. “Could Medicaid Be A Moneymaker?” was published in the magazine's Problem Solver: Public Money section.

Robert Buschman, senior research associate (Fiscal Research Center), was featured in an Atlanta Journal-Constitution article on Georgia’s sales tax holiday debate, August 8, 2013.

The Fiscal Research Center (FRC) is named in the Atlanta Business Chronicle article, “Study finds Georgia sales tax holidays won’t boost sales” (August 8, 2013).

David Sjoquist, professor (Economics) and director (Domestic Studies), was interviewed in an article from JournalStar.com (Lincoln, Nebraska) on the subject of sales tax: “Economist: Winnowing Sales-Tax Exemption is Key to Reform,” August 6, 2013. Article can be found at: http://journalstar.com/news/local/economist-winnowing-sales-tax-exemptions-is-key-to-reform/article_b34f0597-35a5-5036-95d3-1647c111de10.html.

David Sjoquist was featured in the World-Herald Bureau article on Nebraska's tax reform effort: “Nebraska's Tax Reform Effort Will Take More Than Just A Few Months, Expert Says,” August 6, 2013.
The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) was mentioned in the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* on July 5, 2013. 
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6226a5.htm?s_cid=mm6226a5_w.

Mary Ann Phillips, (pictured) associate project director (Georgia Health Policy Center) and Debra Kibbe, senior research associate (Georgia Health Policy Center) were cited in Georgia State University’s article “Researchers Seek Solutions to Childhood Obesity Crisis.” The article focused on research being done at GSU focused on control and prevention of childhood obesity. To read the full article visit: http://www.gsu.edu/2013/08/05/weighing-the-options-researchers-work-to-scale-down-childhood-obesity-crisis/.

Activities and Outreach

Volkan Topalli, associate professor (Criminal Justice & Criminology), was invited by Major League Baseball to present a talk, “Making Drug-Use Choices: A Criminological Perspective on Deterrence and Sanctions,” at the MLB Commissioner’s Office, New York, N.Y., July 27, 2013. He will be consulting with them for the next two years.


Bill Waugh served on the panels “Disaster Resiliency in Times of Rising Inequality” and “Disasters and Development” at the Annual Natural Hazards Workshop, University of Colorado at Boulder, Broomfield, Colo., July 13-17, 2013.


Paul Ferraro and Daniel Millimet (SMU) co-taught the annual invited pre-conference workshop titled “Advances in program and policy evaluation” at the annual meeting of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists in Banff, Canada, June 6, 2013.

Sally Wallace, chair and professor (Economics) and director (Fiscal Research Center), provided a briefing on federal and state tax reform to the National Conference of State Legislator’s Committee on State Taxation, Atlanta, Ga., August 12, 2013.

David Sjoquist, professor (Economics) and director (Domestic Studies) and Sally Wallace made presentations to the Tax Modernization Committee of the Nebraska Legislature in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 6, 2013.


Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, Regents Professor (Economics) and director (International Center for Public Policy), chaired the Scientific Committee for the 69th Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance in Taormina/Sicily, Italy, from August 22-25, 2013.
Bruce Kaufman, professor (Economics), taught a three-day class on the subject of industrial relations theory in Beijing to 60 professors and doctoral students from China. He also met with AYSPS alumnus Baoyun Qiao (Ph.D. in Economics ’01 and now dean at Central University of Finance and Economics) while in Beijing, China.

Bruce Kaufman has accepted a position of visiting professor in the Department of Labor Economics and Labor Relations at Capital University of Economics and Business in Beijing.

Congratulations

Pierre Nguimkeu, assistant professor (Economics), is happy to introduce Lucy Nguimkeu. She was born on Friday August 2, 2013, at 7 pounds and 9 ounces. Mom and baby are doing well.