

Overall Westville Committee Report
—Adopted after in-depth discussion on April 2, 2021

The following was based on a draft report written by the Chair and submitted to the whole Committee for discussion, debate, and hopefully approval on April 2, 2012, with notes and comments added through the note-taking process by Lori Feldman. Subsequently, the Chair then edited the notes, made statements in line with sentiments expressed during the meeting, and is now submitting them to Senate leadership and to Provost Chris Holford for consideration and initial discussion with the Senior Leadership Team. This will be linked to the Senate Agenda for the April 9, 2021.

We will not be expecting to discuss the entire report at the April 9th Senate meeting; rather we will be seeking Senate approval to continue the process, including submitting a Final report to the SLT by the end of this Spring 2021 semester.

The report and various recommendations will be open for discussion by faculty, staff and students from both Westville and Hammond in a meeting scheduled for Friday, April 16, from 10:00-12:00 noon, and with Provost Holford and the Westville Committee, over Zoom. Any necessary changes will to the report will be made subsequently, and the report is expected to be presented for action (and therefore, formal approval for transmission to SLT) at the May 7, 2021 Senate meeting.

Several comments before proceeding to the report:

- All sub-committee reports and recommendations were accepted unanimously by the entire Westville Committee on April 2. Each were formally voted on and approved.
- This “overall” report—submitted below—was discussed by the Committee at the April 2 meeting. As indicated below in the notes, there was considerable discussion and interaction about some of the recommendations since this was the first time they had been seen by the Committee. Changes were made and accepted by the entire Committee; in fact, as a result of our discussions, every recommendation ultimately was passed unanimously, but only some were formally voted on: a formal vote was taken on those recommendations that were of special importance to the Committee, and thus should be recognized as having extra weight and deserve particular consideration.
- In finalizing this report, the Chair made the decision to remove faculty members’ names. This is not to deny them credit nor consideration for their contributions, but because we chose not to record our meetings so that we could have the most thoughtful, free-flowing, and unfettered conversations/discussions across the Committee’s work, and it was thought this was the best way to proceed in light of previous practice.
- It should be noted that no one associated with the Westville Committee has received any additional compensation for their time, or any reduction in workload, in exchange for their work on the Committee. This is an all-volunteer project, undertaken in addition to Faculty Members’ already heavy workload.
- We also thank students Raven Chant, representing the Student Government Association, and Kayla Vasilko, initiator of the Westville Warriors, for their participation in our work and discussions.
- It should be noted that each of the five colleges of Purdue Northwest had at least one member of the Committee. We sought wide participation by faculty members, and while most are associated with the Westville campus, we also sought (and got some)

participation from Hammond faculty. Participants of the Committee were (by sub-committee) in alphabetical order of their last name with their department mentioned afterward (and please let me know of any corrections needed on these!). In addition to their formal participation, the entire Committee engaged and was involved with each other during monthly meetings, where attendance was high and discussion robust:

- Local Outreach sub-committee: Robin Miller (Social Work), Tony Sindone (coordinator and Business Development), and Diane Spoljoric (Nursing).
- Program sub-committee: Raven Chant (SGA), Vanessa Quinn (Biology), Jane Rose (English), Michelle Spaulding (Biology), Ed Vavrek (Technology), Donna Whitten (coordinator and Accounting), Dan Wilbur (Communications), and Jennifer Williams (Registrar’s Office).
- Recruiting sub-committee: Kevin Cole (coordinator and hockey coach), Janusz Duzinkiewicz (History and Philosophy), Marisa Garcia-Verdugo (English and Modern Languages), Rose Haite (TRIO), Beth Rudnick (Advising), Pam Saylor (Social Work), and Angela Schooley (Nursing).
- University College and Exploratory Students sub-committee: Raven Chant (SGA), Kevin Cole (hockey), Lori Feldman (Marketing), Vanessa Quinn (coordinator and Biology), Angela Schooley (Nursing), and Ceren Turedi (Marketing).
- The Westville Committee was Chaired by Kim Scipes (Vice Chair of Faculty Senate and Sociology).
- It should not be assumed that this “Overall” Report incorporates all of the findings and recommendations from the various sub-committees—it does not. Each sub-committee’s report stands on its own, although there are places of some overlap. This “Overall” Report was initiated by the Chair and was added to give a perspective different from the sub-committees’ giving, with the sub-committee reports, a more “total” picture: accordingly, the entire report consists of the FIVE reports and all five should be read and considered.
- We shall be seeking a formal, written response to each recommendation from all five reports from the SLT, to be submitted to the Senate’s Executive Committee before the beginning of Fall Semester, 2021. Based on the overall response from the SLT, the Senate will consider the need to re-establish the Westville Committee to monitor subsequent responses to this report in its entirety.

Without further discussion, here is the Overall Report:

The Chair moved on to discussion of the “overall” committee report, and noted that it emphasizes the role of unification to the current Westville situation. He also made clear that students rely on the University to be honest and transparent with them. These are critical for developing trust with them, their parents, and the community. The Chair indicated the committee will address each item in the report one by one.

Recommendation 1a: The Committee believes that a successful plan for our Westville campus cannot be accomplished by adding a course or a program here and there. We think the campus as a whole should receive its own designation as a major institutional component of PNW.

A motion to accept this recommendation was made, seconded, and voted upon. The

recommendation was unanimously accepted.

Recommendation 1b: “We propose that the Westville campus receive the designation as our Professional and Wellness campus. The Professional designation would include programs in Business and Technology. The Wellness designation would include programs in Behavioral Sciences, Health Studies, Human Development and Family Services, Liberal Studies, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, and Sociology. This is not meant to suggest that existing programs that may be interpreted as existing outside of such designation should be removed from the campus; to the contrary, they are deemed essential to providing established programs and services to the Westville service area. Nor, obviously, does it mean that all current Professional and Wellness programs will be moved to Westville, nor will they be denigrated at Hammond. It does mean, however, that Westville get first consideration in the future for resources, faculty, staff and students interested in some areas of our Professional and Wellness programs.”

To further this identity, future programs that could be included under this “Professional and Wellness” designation may include Entrepreneurship, HTM, Environmental Sciences, as well as other programs, such as particular programs in the School of Education and Counseling, but this will require longer-term consideration and deliberation. It is recommended that these decisions receive input from the entire faculty and a proposed team formed to advise Senior Leadership on decision regarding our Westville campus (see recommendation 4). The particular programs listed here are only suggestions, while the designation of Westville as the Professional and Wellness campus is a distinct recommendation with our full support. The goal is to give our Westville campus a specific designation and direction, and that multiple programs will be designated as “primarily” based in Westville.”

The chair noted that that this particular name suggestion could change – the important issue is for Westville to have a unique identity within PNW. He noted that the designation should emphasize the strengths of the campus, and thus it would make sense for Westville to get first consideration for resource allocation to support these strengths.

[A Committee Member] called this a rebranding effort and noted this would be important for the future success of the campus. He was concerned because Professional & Wellness programs are also at the Hammond campus. He asked the committee to consider what VALUE Westville brings to the community and the region.

[A Committee Member] suggested the following statement about the Westville campus: “the campus for commuting students in a beautiful natural setting catering to wellness, culture, and professional goals.”

[A Committee Member] followed up on earlier rebranding comments and noted that what is really being suggested is a repositioning and that repositioning must be done with respect to what is important to stakeholders. Universities/brands/celebrities/etc. all need to be differentiated – that is, stand out and stand for something in the minds of their stakeholders.

[A Committee Member] said she had talked to 600 students as part of her Market Research class about what they wanted for the Westville campus. Her research showed that welcoming spaces on campus are important, but also that students have so many other things going on so many don’t often spend much time on campus beyond their classes. She suggested doing more

research and offered her students’ efforts from the Market Research class. She emphasized that this was a long-term suggestion.

The Chair emphasized that the work of this committee was targeted toward the SLT and his goal is for the SLT to think differently about the Westville campus. He suggested that the report use Professional and Wellness for now and continue to look for better alternatives. [A Committee Member] suggested making the language tentative by using a phrase like “such as” before Professional and Wellness.

A motion to accept all parts of recommendation #1 as a whole was made and seconded. The recommendation was unanimously accepted.

Recommendation 2: “With this institutionalized recognition of the importance of the Westville campus, PNW should adopt a new designation for the entire university other than “metropolitan university,” but which shall apply to both campuses. While we don’t have a recommendation for this term, we specifically argue that it must apply to both campuses, recognizing both have their individual strengths and weaknesses, and valuing both as essential components of Purdue University Northwest.”

There was a long and complex discussion about this recommendation. Committee members recognize that the metropolitan university designation is a strategic goal of the Chancellor, but also note that some faculty still struggle to understand what metropolitan university means, especially in the context of a rural campus. The designation of “metropolitan university” as meaning deep involvement in the community was clarified. The term “metropolitan university” was also noted to be an ICHE designation.

The Chair reemphasized the need for a unique identity for the Westville campus as part of PNW again became apparent in the designation and suggested merging this recommendation with the first recommendation given the discussion above.

There was no vote on this recommendation.

Recommendation 3: “We recommend that the Westville campus should be given a particular name, and suggest that it be named for someone who has contributed mightily to the struggle for greater racial, economic and/or gender justice in this country, so it could be identified as the ‘name’ campus of Purdue University Northwest.” Further, we do not think it should be named for someone who has received national attention previously, such as Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, John Lewis, etc. Further, we think this naming project should be publicly announced, with suggestions taken widely, but with the current faculty having the ultimate decision in a democratic, one-person, one-vote process. This would bring additional exposure to our Westville campus. Further, PNW could have an annual event recognizing this individual with a celebration of sorts. In addition, an area on campus could be set up with information regarding this individual’s accomplishments. The annual event and the information area can be used to draw community visitors to our Westville campus.”

[A Committee Member] suggested Anita Bowser who was affiliated with the campus previously. It was noted that we would have to get permission from the BOT to name the campus as there is not another named campus in the system.

[A Committee Member] suggested that rather than naming the campus, we hold an annual event honoring similar luminaries which would bring publicity and also people to campus. This would serve a similar end to naming the campus.

[A Committee Member] supported the idea of an annual event and noted he shies away from naming the campus. He suggested that rather than Westville/Hammond we might move to calling them the East Campus and the West Campus.

[A Committee Member] added that we could also recognize successful alumni.

There was no vote on this recommendation, but the general consensus was toward having an annual event that honored someone each year—preferably an alumni from this campus, but someone from Northwest Indiana—for their essential work in contributing mightily to the struggle for greater racial, economic and/or gender justice in this country. This would include a year-long display on the campus honoring that person and their work in these efforts.

Recommendation 4: Our campus in Westville and deserves to be adequately staff at all times. This includes full-time staffing by an administrator at the Vice Chancellor or above level with administrative and technical support, who will act as a contact person with the local communities, and as someone to report to the Senior Leadership Team about the ongoing work at Westville, and who can make decisions regarding Westville programs on an interim basis between SLT meetings. Faculty Senate will assist in creating a Senior Advisory Team of Full Professors who primarily teach at Westville, and Associate Professors who have been in rank for at least 10 years and who have five years’ service or more at Westville, and whose purpose it will be to advise and guide this administrator; this Senior Advisory Team will meet each semester with this administrator, and results of meetings will be shared with the entire PNW faculty and staff. Again, details can be worked out in the up-coming year.”

[A Committee Member] shared her perspective as a former administrator post-unification and noted she strongly supports this recommendation.

[A Committee Member] reported that from his subcommittee they frequently heard from the community that folks didn’t know who to call at the campus when they had questions. He suggested there needs to be someone who is the “face” of the Westville campus that faculty, students, and the community can go to.

[A Committee Member] recommended that the percent of administrators based in Westville be based on the percent of students at the campus.

[A Committee Member] supports this recommendation and suggested that the proposed Senior Advisory Team also include clinical and other long-time faculty on the campus. The Chair supported this idea and broke this suggestion into two parts – the first focusing on having a senior leader for the campus and the second on having an advisory team.

A motion to accept the first part of the recommendation about a senior administrator for the campus was made and seconded. The recommendation was unanimously accepted. It should be noted that this recommendation was made by the previous iteration of the Westville

Committee, when chaired by Dave Fiekes.

Recommendation 5 (formerly the second part of recommendation 4): "Faculty Senate will assist in creating a Senior Advisory Team of Full Professors who primarily teach at Westville, and Associate Professors who have been in rank for at least 10 years and who have five years' service or more at Westville, and whose purpose it will be to advise and guide this administrator; this Senior Advisory Team will meet each semester with this administrator, and results of meetings will be shared with the entire PNW faculty and staff."

There was no vote on this recommendation, although the general consensus was to widen participation to include clinicals and other long-time faculty on the campus.

Recommendation 6: That there will be bus service implemented and maintained between the two campuses, running twice a day in the early morning and late afternoon. This could include a minimal fee for usage, to help defer costs. By having only two bus trips a day, this would encourage students to take advantage of being on that particular campus and take more than one class on that day, hopefully encouraging additional course enrollment.

The Chair emphasized that we all understand that the cost of hourly bus service is prohibitive but noted that without bus service, students won't be able to take some necessary classes on the other campus.

[A Committee Member] does not support only a twice daily schedule. She suggested a three times a day schedule. She also noted that she often took the bus between campuses when she was teaching on both campuses.

[A Committee Member] emphasized the issue of working students' schedules impacting their use of the busses. He noted an increased need for marketing about transportation options.

[A Committee Member] noted that for Social Work, many of the Fall 2021 Tues/Thurs classes are in Westville, but that there is no bus service scheduled for the fall.

[A Committee Member] noted that course scheduling should be coordinated based on bus schedules and clearly communicated to students.

A motion to accept this recommendation was made and seconded. The recommendation was unanimously accepted. It was strongly noted that the issue was more than just bus service, but that class scheduling had to be made in light of bus schedule so as to make this arrangement of maximum value to the students (and faculty), both coming to Westville from Hammond and going to Hammond from Westville. It would make sense to advertise to students on both campuses the courses and opportunities that exist on the "other" campus. There was strong consensus on some need of an alternative to driving be established and maintained between the two campuses.

Recommendation 7: The Committee recognizes that sometimes even the best-made plans do not work out as successfully as hoped. We expect that before a program reaches that situation, that measures to reverse the trend be initiated, including such things as additional advertising, community engagement, and other such efforts. Nonetheless, it is recommended that PNW

adopt a standard, appropriate for each campus, that is shared publicly, regarding a metric for determining when and if a program should be considered for termination.

Recommendation 8: “While the above recommendations have been made with the understanding of no new faculty or resources for the foreseeable future, we do want to make one recommendation outside of that limitation. As Provost Holford has recognized, there will be programs advanced and initiated that have an exceedingly good of success and thus, contributing to the further development of PNW. Accordingly, the Westville Committee recommends the establishment of a Masters in Social Work on the Westville campus as an extremely high priority for the administration. The faculty on our Westville campus have done an exemplary job in developing and obtaining accreditation for a Bachelor’s in Social Work—a quite difficult task—and with the extensive contacts throughout Northwest Indiana, this argues for further advancement in this area. As research developed by [A Committee Member] shows, there is a big demand for Social Workers throughout the region, especially in the rural areas which are underserved by trained health care personnel, and conversations with community partners suggest a Master’s Degree program that includes both rural and urban focuses would be quite favorably responded to by the community. This has the extra advantage of training people to get the MSW, and then with approximately 1.5 years additional supervised training, they can get a professional degree that allows them to provide therapeutic services basically on the same level as a multi-year doctoral programs that requires training that is twice as long, which also has major economic and financial advantages for the students accepted into the program.”

[A Committee Member] noted that Social Work is planning on two new hires for Fall 2021. She shared that SLT is currently considering a graduate degree in Social Work, and that the faculty in the discipline want to keep the program at Westville, but also add classes in Hammond.

[A Committee Member] also reiterated that there is great demand in the community for mental health providers and that PNW could be providing a great service to the community with a program like this.

A motion to accept this recommendation was made, seconded and voted upon. The recommendation was unanimously accepted.

Student K. Vasilko shared that there is a new group called the “Westville Warriors” which is seeking to become a new student organization.

Their mission is as follows: "The Westville campus is a beautiful resource for our university. Unfortunately, many of us have experienced a decline in classes and programming offered at the Westville campus. As we work towards returning to more in person programming, it is so important to emphasize the value of the Westville campus, and show just how many students care, while also developing a show of support that will only continue to grow after that transition is made. The Westville Warriors is a student organization dedicated to working to ensure the Westville campus always has the classes that the community needs, as well as equal events and programming in comparison to our counterpart, the Hammond campus. Our mission is to advocate that *every student* should have equal access to PNW education no matter what their major, location, race, financial status, disability, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, veteran status, or any attribute or defining status. Though we are working primarily to

build up the Westville campus, we will also work to speak up if we see an imbalance of programming on the Hammond campus, or at Gabis Arboretum. Our main goal is to come together to make sure that all portions of our *one university* are equally strong! We will continuously spread awareness for our organization so that students know they can come to us when experiencing scheduling issues; we will not only help guide them to their advisors and appropriate faculty, but also assemble a living list of the programming needs of Westville students and surrounding community members. As an organization, we believe that no student should have to change programs or leave PNW altogether because they are unable to commute. Students work too hard to get to college to be made to choose against a program they truly want, or commute to a location that is inconvenient for them, when PNW offers a more convenient option, whichever location that might be. When we consider the fact that so many of our students are working students, are unconventional, are supporting families while continuing their education, emphasizing the importance of meeting them where they are is paramount. In addition to these initiatives, the Westville Warriors will advocate for equal access to education as a whole. We will hold repetitive fundraisers and events to raise funds so that we can support impoverished students and help ensure that **all** students have access to the resources that they need."

The group is circulating a petition to show their support for the campus and to show interest so they can become an official student organization. The petition is at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wx0_k_MrLyoWd8lvRp5r4WqW6rkWR_B2jkzgxNc2mE/edit?usp=sharing

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am.