

**Student Leaders Strategic Planning Mtg.**  
**Student Government/SAA/Ambassadors**  
**December 4, 2014**  
**HHC 570**

Dr. John Welty of Penson Associates introduction and student leaders introduction  
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Dr. Welty works for Penson Associates

- Has been meeting with faculty, staff, campus people and community
- All responses will be on website, but will not be identified by person
- Will identify 4-6 goals to work on for the next 5 years
- Website will be up probably next week at Dixie.edu

#1- What is great about Dixie State University?

- Class sizes
- Personal faculty
- Location
- Size of school gives you opportunities

- Faculty helpful
- Hands on opportunities
- Great Weather
- Sense of feeling – know everyone and get involved
- Wide variety of students from International to Non Traditional,etc.
- Recruitment waiver – Neighbor state tuition scholarship
- Open Enrollment
- Teachers offer you opportunity – they seek you out to give opportunities –for free
- Intramural program
- Outdoor activities opportunities

#2 – What would you like to say to a prospective student, but you can't –

- We have an outstanding math department
- We have flexible course offerings/times/offered/etc. especially upper division
- Our football team is really good
- Huge teams
- Huge events
- We have sense of community
- Great Housing options
- We have master degrees
- We are among the Top 5 Academics in Utah
- Wish because our name is Dixie we would not be associated with the southern Dixie (out of state)
- Entire community is woven together with Dixie State University- DSU things are everywhere
- There is something to do past 7 p.m.
- Have a lot of network opportunities
- Wide selection of Bachelor degree
- Have a lot of relevant degrees
- Wish there was a wider selection of music groups to participate in
- We have a solid identity
- We have a great Marching band and team spirit
- Great visitor section in stadium
- Students are excited to be a part of Dixie State University

Why did you choose Dixie State?

- Offered best scholarship
- My parents live in town
- Only place I could enroll in late – loved it and stayed
- Aimed for middle ground between religious school and party school
- Offered variety of scholarships, offered more once they was here
- Low Tuition – Neighbor state waiver
- Getting involved

- Cheapest to get generals done, then stayed because they got involved
- Knew Dixie was good value & had good weather. Wanted to get away from family
- A lot of Family went to Dixie and they got an Alumni scholarship
- Individual attention – people they worked with at the school made them feel important and attended to and cared about
- Smooth transition
- Took a tour and fell in love with the school and all of its opportunities
- Non-traditional student that found opportunity and still be able to work full-time

If you were president of University for a month, what would do you?

- Make this a community town
- Bring in as many diverse people as possible
- Change the mascot
- Work on helping students find their niche
- Implement Masters degree in Computer Science
- Get a solid identity
- Talk to Football coach and see what it would take to make a winning team and fill the stadium – how much \$\$\$\$\$
- Identity is a big issue with recruitment
- When recruiting they are often asked “How is your football team doing????” They answer that with “We’re on the rise”. Wish we could have a stronger/better answer for them.
- Create a college experience – more than what you can get online- \$\$in sports, housing, academics, involvement - Need solid student body
- Better food on campus
- Create a complete unity between all entities on campus –
- Eliminate territorialism - work together more
- Do Sorority and Fraternity groups

How many came just planning to stay short period and stayed longer? Why???- several raised their hands

- Got involved
- Hated college 1<sup>st</sup> two years and it wasn’t until they got involved – now loves DSU
- Interacting with other people and their invitation to be involved
- Direction and growth that DSU was moving and he found degrees that were applicable
- Only here because parents wanted them here, then professors encouraged them to find something as a degree that would be beneficial for him
- Professors worked one on one and showed them there were other ways they could excel (in areas other than the area they had always be strong in before) and that they were smarter than they thought.

- Recognized that they had a loyalty for the Dance department and felt they could give back to DSU
- Made the step from being a committee members and got more involved (stipend leader) and now she loves it.
- We have so many opportunities to be involved –
- Change to a university kept people here and will bring more people here
- Did transfer to another school and quickly realized it was the worse decision – did get involved at transfer school, but came back to DSU and it was less expensive to go here, more spirit and feeling on campus,
- Wants degree to say that they graduated from DSU
- Has come to understand what they are being taught
- Everyone was really friendly and included them – sense of belonging
- Helped with planning their future
- It feels like home
- People care about me here

What do you do after 7 p.m.?

- Netflix, Red box, TV
- Not a lot of people go to Movie theaters
- Laser Tag, Rappelling, etc.
- Having Holland Building open until midnight has been great
- If food services were open later, that would be great
- Plan their week around Wednesday activities
- More activities
- Campus basically shuts down after 1 p.m.
- No student center – No real hub for community gathering hub
- One student asked the group what the average attendance at campus events was – Answer was that it depended on what kind of event it was, but for the normal campus events usually between 200-500 people attend events
- Hard to provide experiences for non-traditional students – need more
- As non-traditional student, if he wasn't involved as student leader, he wouldn't be on campus for activities – his priorities are work, family, etc. after he finishes classes. What would bring him to campus? Family oriented events - maybe
- More areas where students can sit and socialize – UVU has a fantastic student center- bowling alley, etc.
- No where to go to meet people unless in a club, or group, etc.
- We have a student center, but it is totally inadequate because of growth

If there was one thing you could change at Dixie State University, what would it be?

- Students really need better athletic programs
- Wants areas for fitness and performance utilities
- Be able to go to games and have a sense of community

- More unity
- Dances, social events
- Focus on good traditions, get more students and community to be more involved
- Be more unified – everyone going toward same goal, but we go against each other trying to get there
- Development and fund raising needs to be increased – needs more investment into the university– tap into community and retired people resources
- Be more clear of who and what we are
- Never lose sight of origin traditions, but not be afraid of establishing new ones
- Be united in recruitment with athletics
- Identity and unity – teams have different colors than the rest of school – we are lost – no mascot that we can get behind
- Mascot – have one that everyone doesn't hate
- On campus housing
- Involvement for students if they aren't in a club. Student Center
- Spirit between students and community for every type of event
- Mascot is a huge problem – People no longer donate, need a mascot people can get behind
- Identity – Become a university town
- Unity with city of St. George – brings revenue, some aspects don't allow them to get involved, community members from other schools often travel across the country to support athletic teams, etc. Shutting down the town for athletic events
- Branding the DSU image – Dixie State stuff isn't found in local retail outlets, Town banners, flags, would be great
- Football team – make it stronger and it will bring support
- More community spirit
- More spirit with faculty- show DSU spirit personally and build it up in their classes with students
- Identity
- Dixie is lost as it is growing
- Find our strength and make more of that – be our best
- Involved in community- tired of seeing all other Utah schools represented in town , but not Dixie.
- Technology – other than HCC, technology in buildings is bad
- Fixing centralized scheduling – both students and community, territorialism, no one wants to give up their space or let anyone schedule anything
- Mascot- change it to something that we can stand up for and be proud of
- Unity – throughout departments, community, businesses, families in town,

Dr. Welty thanked the student leaders for coming and adjourned the meeting.

