

Notes from Sayre Town Hall meeting March 22, 2012

1. Pretend you are looking into a crystal ball. What do you see as SWOSU's ideal future?
 - Residential component
 - More social interaction with community
 - Some 4- year programs
 - An event center-larger than is currently available-Is land/funding available??
 - Energy industry- related academic program-technical focus
 - Educational opportunities for CCA prison staff positions

2. What forces or issues – political; financial; technological; etc. – will affect the future of SWOSU?
 - Money and resources
 - Financial aid-federal government changed funding program for summer school and there is no Pell funds available for tuition and costs of attendance
 - Educating the public on importance of Higher Education and its role in moving communities forward
 - Investigate need for 2 year Industrial Engineering degree program at Sayre
 - Investigate careers like surveying, energy related expertise for possible programs
 - Lack of classroom space

3. You have the opportunity to talk with donors who are considering a very large unrestricted gift to the University. What ideas (programs, projects) would you pitch to them that would be exciting to work on and would better serve students and community?
 - Scholarships
 - Building needs
 - Faculty expertise
 - Plan for growth
 - Organized student activities
 - Endowments
 - Equipment
 - Partnerships with businesses in recruiting efforts

4. You've been asked to talk to a small group of high school students who are considering where to go to college. What would you say to them about coming to SWOSU and the things that they will get here that are truly different from other schools? What things would you like to say, but can't because they're missing here at SWOSU?
 - Financial aid available to student to pay for college and live at home
 - Small class size 20 or less
 - Family atmosphere

Need facilities upgrade
Landscaping
Marquee digital sign
Large multipurpose building

5. What does “The Focus is You” mean and what can we do to exhibit it even more?
 - Student centered
 - Improve job placement
 - Center for career placement for graduates with academic units assistance

6. What are ways that SWOSU and the surrounding communities can cooperate even more than it already is to benefit SWOSU and the region?
 - Hold communication forums on a monthly basis with the Sayre community and the Sayre Dean
 - Facility sharing
 - More idea sharing-programs/courses that help local businesses
 - Hold more career fairs
 - Use Business leaders as guest speakers in the classroom- have faculty and students visit local business and present educational forums for businesses.

7. What are the traditions, commitments, and places that tie us together and create pride or are uniformly held dear by the SWOSU community?
 - Graduates from Sayre and Weatherford
 - Business leaders in Sayre community are graduates

8. What can we do to create the kind of environment to attract and keep the best and brightest faculty and staff at SWOSU?
 - The Bulldog Café has the best food in town
 - Close ties with the HS Counselor
 - Live in rural are and enjoy life

9. What kind of qualities do we want our SWOSU graduates to have?
 - High social and academic qualities
 - Lifelong learners
 - Good work ethic
 - Responsibility
 - Dependability
 - Self-motivated
 - Respect
 - Community involvement
 - Cultural awareness
 - Interpersonal communication and dynamics

Other....

What questions were not asked that you expected?

How are we going to accomplish all this? Patience and perseverance

What can Sayre community do? Partnerships/Investment in higher education