

Learning Exchange: Institutionalizing Deliberative Democracy on Campus

Reporter: Joanna Dickert

- What **innovations, ideas, opportunities, and/or action steps** received the most support among your group?
The action item that was most discussed was how to embed deliberative practice in university governance structures (i.e. Student Senate, Faculty Senate, University Senate, etc.).
- In the probes (suggestions, not mandatory questions), we ask about **language, assessment, and technology**. Please share with us anything regarding these topics that resonated with your group.
We did not explicitly explore these topics in depth although we did discuss that one of the critical elements of our work at Carnegie Mellon as the deliberative democracy initiative at the university transitioned into Student Affairs was the ability to translate outcomes of the deliberative process into language that focused on student development and was consistent with the mission of the Division of Student Affairs.
- In the probes, we ask about **justice, equity, and freedom**. Please share with us anything regarding these values that resonated with your group.
The focus of our discussion was more structural and process-based so while these concepts served as an overall framework, they were not explicitly named in the course of our discussion.
- Were there **people** in your group who were interested in working on these ideas? (If so, please be specific about who and the plans being hatched.)
Although there was much interest in the topic of utilizing the deliberative process in university governance, no one in the session has currently been able to accomplish this at their institution so Paul from Western Kentucky State University convened a Breakfast Roundtable on the topic.
- Based on the discussion, what do you think should be the **top priorities** for educators and practitioners?
 - *Developing best practices for embedding deliberative practice in university governance structures*
 - *Identifying innovative strategies for overcoming disciplinary boundaries and persisting given resource challenges (i.e. partnering with faculty who teach introductory English courses in the development of balanced background materials to be utilized in a deliberative process)*
 - *Understanding the importance of institutional culture when developing strategies to introduce/establish/sustain deliberative initiatives in campus communities*