Senate Chair Bill Eadie convened the Open Forum. An information report was provided to the Senate in advance of the forum. A senate representative from each task force gave a brief summary of recommendations. Final reports are available on the Strategic Plan website.

Bill thanked the working groups and task forces for their hard work and deliberation. Bill opened the floor for comments.

Questions and comments related to quantifying costs and assessing progress as the process moves forward were addressed by Provost Marlin and Sally Roush. The Steering Committee will work with the Budget Office and President Hirshman to identify costs and a budget. A cost benefit analysis will be included, and cost versus revenue generation will be considered. There will be some funding commitments, as well as an assessment of progress. Noting fundamental changes will also be important.

There were various comments and discussion related to support for a Learning Center or centers. Model of peers leading small groups of undergraduate students does work. A web-based tool for use by administration to show student progression could be developed. Emphasis on writing and mathematics should be considered. It was suggested centers be placed in areas on campus where students are located. Unrelated to cost, important to partner with K-12 to assess and plan for college readiness.

Questions and comments related to online learning were addressed by the task forces. The topic is being monitored so we are in front of the idea instead of behind. Task forces have considered as a long-term goal.

Comments related to internationalization included encouragement for a deeper level of involvement. Global understanding is important for all students, not just those studying abroad. Internationalizing curriculum should be done.
Additional questions related to diversity and recruiting methods. It’s an ongoing challenge. Partnering with other institutions, high school conferences, and other outreach actions contribute to this effort.

Additional comments included importance of academic excellence and the role of faculty in moving the institution forward; the importance of research, generating resources that could produce revenue for the university, and innovation; surveying local expertise and accepting offers of support; and concern for resources taken away from undergraduate programs.

Bill Eadie closed the session and asked that additional comments be sent via email to strategicplan@mail.sdsu.edu.