

Strategic Planning 2023-27: Session 2 Summary

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Associated document: [Session 2 Materials - Live Work Well Strategic Plan Renewal 2023-27](#)

Identifying Where We Want to Go: Key Discussion Points

- **Need for a “bigger picture” understanding of current Centre-related events.** There is a limitation in Cluster Leads’ time and abilities to access a larger-scale overview of what is currently happening on campus, including what other researchers are doing, and what events are occurring that might be synergistic with Centre and Cluster work.
- **Concerns about potential human and resource capacity constraints.** Participants expressed concern with increased workloads that would come from creating more student opportunities, as well as new initiatives. We must consider what our individual and collective capacities are, and work to better understand our capacities to “allocate” work appropriately. To address potential capacity concerns, the following ideas were discussed:
 - Annual “**Planning/Imagining**” meeting with Cluster Leads (in addition to Annual Cluster Gathering), involving a **prioritization and exercise** to determine how the Centre can allocate research, KMb, and admin support each year.
 - Regular meetings to support **logistics/organizing of research**.
 - A “**centralized bank**” of **logistical and administrative tools and resources** for those connected to the Centre, including repositories of ethics applications, databases of email responses, grant application support, budget management support, event planning resources, and communications resources.
 - **Connecting to training opportunities and resources across campus** to enhance skills and abilities related to social media posting, budget planning, event planning, and making events more accessible (e.g. connecting to support at the Library).
 - A designated graduate student at the Centre who would assist in research and KMb coordination and provide some administrative support.
- **Further internationalizing the scope of the Centre’s work to align with the University’s strategic goals.** Explore opportunities for further expanding the scope of the Centre’s research and practices and serve as a connecting point for others doing similar work.
- **Continue to host conferences/panels/events through the Centre to enhance knowledge mobilization and community interaction.** Cluster Leads have benefitted from the Centre’s technical and admin support for events, especially events that bring people together from different disciplines.

Page 2

- **Re-focus the Centre's goals.** The goals themselves don't necessarily need to change, but we need to be clearer about what the pathways and processes are to reach those goals. The following questions were asked to encourage us to reflect on these goals, and think through how we might be able to rearrange or break them up differently:
 - **Research Activities:**
 - What do we mean by "initiate cluster-based research activities." What activities are "cluster-based" vs. "Centre-initiated" vs. "Cluster-supporting"?
 - How can we integrate the following actions into this goal: "amplify," "converge," "manage," "promote," "mobilize," "connect," "aggregate."
 - **Student Engagement:**
 - How can we recognize/celebrate student contributions in monetary ways (e.g. create a formal agreement between the Centre and the SOPR program to support shared GRA positions), and non-monetary ways (e.g. create awards for student Cluster Co-Leads to recognize their leadership)?
 - How can we support and connect students with training and practice opportunities around community engagement, research, and knowledge mobilization to share knowledge and resources?
 - **Community Engagement:**
 - What do we mean by "partnership"? How can we focus less on processes of partnership and more on practices – what do we want partnerships with the Centre to be like in practice?
 - What are the benefits of partnership with the Centre for community partners?
 - How can we reinforce and connect to the existing strengths of our partners?
 - **Communities of Practice:** Focus on defining what "communities of practice" are, and how we can support and enhance our other goals through convening groups of people to learn and share together.
 - Is developing communities of practice a way to do our work, rather than a goal in and of itself?
 - What are we "practicing"? How can we work together to make and advocate for change at the university?
 - **Knowledge Mobilization:**
 - How can we intentionally engage with diverse partners and audiences?
 - How can we ensure we share knowledge that reflects our values?
- **Tracking progress on goals and actions in manageable ways.**
 - Conduct exit interviews with students after the end of their contracts: Was the position what they expected? What sort of opportunities did they access?
 - Take data from project funding reports to use for tracking purposes (i.e. avoid duplication of tracking efforts).
 - In addition to tracking our progress towards our goals, what else can we do to ensure these goals are realized (e.g. additional Cluster meetings throughout the year to improve communications and accountability between Clusters)?