Programmatic & Academic Vitality Narratives

1) Have you made any changes to your unit’s annual budget development process from the response provided last year? If yes, please briefly describe the changes you’ve made to your unit’s annual internal budget development process. If no, please answer with a simple, “no changes.” Word Limit: 500

No changes

2) Have you made any changes to your unit’s strategic plan in the past year? If yes, what are 3-5 key elements of your unit’s new/revised strategic plan? If no, please comment on the progress you’ve made in 3-5 key areas of your strategic plan. Yes. Word Limit: 500

MSTI in Technology Innovation:
--grow student numbers (300 applications by 2022)
--enhance global component (visitor programs, working toward new dual degree program and new launch-as-internship program)
--refresh curriculum (update interdisciplinary faculty group, pilot themes in technology, create academic advisory board, work on new curriculum and dual degree with Tsinghua)
--create leaders in innovation (create a 5-year assessment plan)

GIX:
--pilot lifelong learning program, targeting strategic program with one large company
--increase utilization of Steve Ballmer Building for additional sources of revenue and strategic program connections (e.g., lease space, student startup incubation)
--recruit an Executive Director
--create a transition to determine foundational operating structures for GIX 2.0

3) What major obstacles or institutional barriers currently do, or will, hinder execution of your strategic plan? What are you doing to address these challenges? If no changes from your response to either component of this question from last year, please answer “no changes”: Word Limit: 250

Our location in Bellevue has helped us attract industry partners and create a center of collaboration with industry for our learning programs. However, the distance from campus continues to represent a challenge for attracting and engaging faculty to teach in our program, and for helping students connect with campus resources. We have a shuttle service and are investigating possibility of holding some courses on campus to ease this difficulty.

4) Over the next year, could any of your planned strategic activities result in material changes to revenues or expenditures, faculty or staff workload, or the student experience within your unit/campus and/or another unit/campus? Word Limit: 500

Yes; we have begun to lease parking and portions of Balmer Building and expand access to the Makerspace, with preference to entities whose presence will enhance the learning experience for our students. We will also generate revenue from the Executive and Lifelong Learning programs, with several pilots planned for the coming year.

5) What is your unit doing to effectively use or redeploy resources in a way that benefits your unit/campus and/or other units/campuses? Word Limit: 500

GIX event and meeting spaces are available at a discounted rate for UW users. The GIX Makerspace and
classrooms are available for rented use for UW users. GIX frequently hosts tours for or with central administrative units, as well as partner departments. We have leased parking and portions of Balmer Building to enhance revenue.

6) For UW student facing units, what are you doing to improve the experience and outcomes of students on your campus or in your unit? What could the University do to support your efforts? Word Limit: 500, Leave blank if N/A

The MS in Technology Innovation program is in its 3rd year (44 students). We have hired a faculty member to provide strategic guidance on how to increase interdisciplinarity, global relevance, continuity, and technical quality of the curriculum and instruction and to make recommendations to increase industry engagement, improve project scoping process, and student satisfaction in the launch project program. We have hired a full-time Career Development Specialist and added a professional development seminar. We have added themed projects to our hardware/software lab courses, several of the supported by a government organization or startup) and have added industry guest lecturers to many of the courses. A new Diversity Committee hosts a weekly gathering and activities.