

Economic Vitality

Faculty Combined Raw Data from 2y2d Focus Groups in 2010-11

Starting in the summer of 2009, the Two Years to Two Decades (2y2d) Initiative asked nearly 1000 faculty, students, staff and community stakeholders for input on where they want the UW to be in 20 years and what matters most to them in light of current challenges.

Based on initial findings, 2010-11 focus groups identified six of society's major issues they felt the UW should work to solve in the coming decades: Environmental Sustainability & Clean Energy, Education, Health, Social Justice & Inequality, Educated & Engaged Local/Global Citizens, and Economic Vitality.

Combined raw data of Economic Vitality-related comments from Faculty groups are listed below.

Participant responses fell under the following headings:

Innovation

Technology

Keeping up with technology/globalization changes

Information

Citizenship, Social Good

Individual responses, roughly grouped by topic, appear below:

- maintaining a vibrant economy (one w/ jobs)
- employment
- changing nature of employment
- multiple careers, re-training, need for "job" over "career," etc.
- employment
- jobs - creation
- job base in state of WA

- innovative ecosystem
- launch padding Innovations at UW
- emerging areas in manufacturing
- science engaged in society
- "Means of Innovation" arts & science of innovation
- constant innovation vs. teleological "progress"

- "Meta" Methodology - Interdisciplinary innovation design tools
- encourage, formalize, reward interaction between programs in health, finance, infrastructure, education
- partnerships across societal boundaries
- partnerships between disciplinary experts and social scientists (eg. Learning scientists)

- mismatch between what things cost and what public seems willing to pay through taxes
- consumerism out of control
- too much focus on easy money (financial sector)

- Jackpot culture focus on lottery, jackpot winners, big athletes, contracts
- quality and depth in a world of superficiality

- sovereign debt (role of government)
- national bankruptcy
- erosion of US leadership in science and technology
- maintaining the competitive edge of the U.S. in science and technology
- global economic stability
- law staying pace with scientific discoveries
- development of a global legal regime

- strategic and critical thinking
- financial models for growth
- economic solutions to combat/address inflation
- optimization of transportation infrastructures
- necessary for success in business and innovation

- cheap energy
- renewable energy
- overpopulation

- technology and its effect on society
- relationship between technology, new opportunities, and society, engineering structures
- the place of technology in our lives
- wellbeing in presence of technological advancement resume limitations
- teaching people how to use technology in a way that benefits them
- impact of ubiquitous technology on student learning
- impact of ubiquitous technology on social interactions
- technology is foundational for other issues (eg. health, medical care, clean water, etc.)
- integrating technological advances into our system of law making (eg. E-rulemaking)
- educating students in a rapidly expanding technological environment
- technology to improve quality of life
- diffusion of new technology
- cost and role of technology, impact and access
- creating spaces that predict future technology
- medical technology
- new technology and resource use
- access to easy-to-use technology

- human/computing interface
- computer literacy
- Facebook, texting, etc.
- issues with the "connected world"
- Google, Wikipedia, whatever is coming next

- human vs. digital
- helping to manage all our digital distractions
- digital technologies impacting our lives more than ever
- balancing public & private interests in the digital age

- overcoming information overload

- critical evaluation of streams of information
- living in a complex world - many streams of information
- changing nature of information
- information security
- access to recorded knowledge
- harness information flow/ownership and the web

- ethics of technology
- ethical concerns with information dissemination
- ethical impact of advances

- next generation manufacturing
- knowledge Translation
- UW as neutral ground
- Partnerships between disciplinary experts and social scientists (eg. Learning scientists)
- students need to participate on interdisciplinary teams on authentic projects
- state funding for universities - untenable model
- humanities are not subsidized by STEM - it's the other way around
- advances (in technology, medicine, climate change, etc.) are not being broadly translated
- solving language barriers