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Your Coalition

1. Who are the team members who will be involved with the project?

We are still in the process of forming our coalition, however at this time there are a handful of committed parties. The below people are already involved:

- Assistant Director for Civic Engagement
- Associate Dean and Director of Student Life Operations
- Social Justice Coordinator for Voter Engagement
- Civic Engagement Pathway Coordinator
- Director of Finance - involved on an advisory level

The Forensics and Debate Team has committed to helping host campus-wide debates and a panel on the importance of voter participation. Our student radio station has partnered with us in the past to do voter registration drives and we will continue to work with them in this capacity, though they are not officially part of our coalition at this time. We are also in the process of working with our Politics and Government Department to see which faculty member(s) can/would like to be involved, though most are not around for the summer, so that conversation will continue once everyone returns in the fall.

2. Who else in your coalition will carry leadership responsibilities in implementing the field plan?

The implementation process will fall heavily on the Office of Spiritual Life and Civic Engagement out of our Center for Intercultural and Civic Engagement. This leadership will be shared among the Asst. Director for Civic Engagement, the Social Justice Coordinator for Voter Engagement, and our Civic Engagement Pathway Coordinator.

3. Who are your community partners?

Thus far we are working with Washington Bus and the College Debate program, hosted and coordinated by Dominican University. Our student team members have been reaching out to similar voter engagement teams at the University of Washington in Seattle and are hoping to coordinate or at least connect with other local Tacoma schools when they return to campus in August. Currently our work with Washington Bus is at the beginning stages of coordination around voter engagement and registration work for the fall. This will continue in earnest once our students return in the fall as well.

4. What promising practices are you going to implement for each of the following? If you are already implementing any additional best practices, please list those as well.

    a. Voter Registration
        i. Last year we collaborated with our student radio program to both host interviews with faculty about political issues and voting as well as worked with them to host voter registration drives in our Student Union Building. We hope to repeat this collaboration by co-hosting voter registration drives on both Constitution Day on Sept 16th and Voter Registration Day on Sept 27th.

    b. Voter Education
        i. We have had an initial conversation with our Debate Team Coaches to discuss hosting a panel on the benefits of voting (and various opinions on this) as well as using the panel to model civic dialogue about political issues. Additionally, because most of our students are from out of state, we have been using and adapting resources from the Campus Vote Project to help students better understand the voting system used in their home state, think about where they would like to register, and what to consider when making the decision on where to register. These efforts will include tabling and providing resources for students to make informed decisions. We will also be hosting debate parties and have had some initial discussion around doing some education on the Electoral College, though those discussions are still in their infancy.

    c. Ballot Access
        i. Following from the voter education work mentioned above, our work on ballot access is mostly geared toward helping students learn how to register for an absentee ballot and what is required of them based on their home state voter laws. The Campus Vote Project's resources have proven extremely helpful for this and we have been working on making them more accessible for our students. As mentioned above, this will include tabling efforts where we will have laptops set up for easy access to the Campus Vote Project's webpage as well as any online voter registration forms (where applicable). This way students will be able to register to vote and request an absentee ballot online while at the table.

    d. Get out the Vote
        i. Our two student delegates to the College Debate are spearheading our Get Out the Vote efforts. They have been engaged in the regional email and messenger threads, keeping everyone up-to-date on the various ideas students across the region are brainstorming. At the moment, the plan is to host debate parties for the presidential debates and create stickers (funding dependent) that are specific to our campus and that encourage both registering to vote and voting (two-part series). In the spring we organized rides to the caucuses to help students attend and participate if they were registered in-state. We are still brainstorming creative ways to 'get out the vote' in a state that votes via absentee ballot and at a school where most students are from out of state. This work will ramp up once our student staff returns in mid-August.

5. What resources do you have available to you? Please include all community partner resources as well?
   - The most consistent resources we have are our students staff assigned to working on this. Their creative energy and ideas, knowledge of social media, and understanding of the issues important to students on campus continue to prove invaluable.
   - Our student government is open to supporting these efforts as well, though we have yet to negotiate what kind of support they will be able to provide, though marketing support is likely.
   - The student run radio station is providing an easy way to stream debates, do interviews, and advertise our efforts.
   - Collaboration with Washington Bus, local voter registration groups, and the College Debate work, each bring access to resources, experiential wisdom and expertise, and contagious passion for the work. We are still working on what these collaborations will look like.

6. What additional resources would be helpful to you as you begin implementing your plan?
   Right now the biggest resource need we have is people-power. Summer is a difficult time for this kind of work as our students and faculty are mostly away for the summer. When one of my student coordinates was asked this question, she responded, "The biggest challenges I see are funding and voter apathy. In other words, we don't have a lot of money to do big things that will fire up people on things they don't care about. However, this simply means we need to get more creative and resourceful -- which can be more easily done with our collection of local and regional community support."

7. If you anticipate any significant implementation challenges, how will you navigate them?
   I think a likely challenge will be getting the committee to solidify. As mentioned previously we have done a good deal of outreach to various interested partners, but getting busy faculty to commit to another committee is difficult. I think it is likely that the bulk of the work will continue to be done out of my office and that we will be able to bring folks along through lower threshold kinds of engagement, such as lectures or radio interviews – ways that allow them to demonstrate their support, without asking them for a significant amount of time. My hope is that this will change and grow in subsequent years and that better NSLV data will provide more motivation for involvement.

8. How often will your coalition meet?
   Realistically monthly.

9. With the goal of having additional civic engagement practices in place by the next election, what are you going to have completed halfway through and at the end of each semester between now and then?

   Our biggest push is for the coming election, trying out the approaches to voter engagement and registration that were discussed above. Having done very little in the past, we are aware that our efforts for this election season will be noticeably greater and initially quite time consuming.

   Following the election, our two top goals are to try to figure out how to get our university software to work with TurboVote and secondly, how to afford TurboVote. We had TurboVote a few years back, but our student government no longer wanted to pay for it and my office

couldn't afford it once the price increased. However, before we can tackle the funding issue, we found TurboVote wasn't particularly successful on our campus due to issues with our university software. Whether we move forward with TurboVote or not, we must navigate our software so that we are able to do some kind of online voter registration push that is embedded in one of our required online systems for new students – we need something more institutionalized and streamlined than tabling.

Our plan to pursue this in the fall begins with scheduling a meeting with Residence Life once they are through Orientation and Move-In, to garner by-in and to discuss what platform(s) we might be able to use to increase voter registration among incoming students. Following this discussion and assuming by-in, we will jointly meet with our Technology Services folks to discuss options and plan next steps for implementation. Our optimistic hope is that a platform choice and development of next steps could be completed by the end of fall semester.

10. At what point in the next year will you evaluate the successes and challenges of your current plan once it is completed?

Based on prior experience with our software, we think a realistic timeframe for progress is January 2018. We realize this is too late for any of the local 2017 elections, but we also acknowledge that our software-related goals will likely not be achievable by then, however it is possible that our meetings with Tech. Services may provide a more accurate timeline and easier checkpoints to evaluate progress.

The NSLVE data will also play a significant role in our evaluation process. See below.

11. What is your plan for gathering data to measure impact?
We are using the NSLVE survey from Tufts University to gather data and allow for year-to-year comparisons and are hoping that our expanded permissions given for NSLVE data collections will help us better develop our campus plan moving forward. We have been somewhat hesitant to dream big, simply because our initial NSLVE data has been pretty limited. We worked with our IR and Registrars Offices to expand the kind of data to be collected this year which should provide more direction for what areas of campus need to be more closely examined so that we can develop a much more targeted plan for voter education and engagement.

12. What is your plan to learn from the data?
We hope to use the NSLV data to review voting habits across academic departments and then use that data to do targeted outreach with faculty and students in the areas with lower voter engagement. At this time we have only best guesses based on data from nation surveys or other institutions about what academic areas are more or less likely to vote. We need to determine which departments on our campus have the greatest/least voter participation so that we know where to focus our efforts. This data will allow us to do targeted outreach within particular departments. We will also use the data to extend an invitation to faculty from these areas to join the committee.