

# ACADEMIC STRATEGIC PLAN

## SPRING 2017 UPDATE REPORT

*ACTIVITY SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY – MAY 2017*

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### TRANS-INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS

#### Progress

- Inaugural TIPs Fair and Reception – March 20 in Alumni Hall
  - Fourteen TIPs projects participated, approximately 100 attendees
  - Informal, free-flowing format encouraged conversation and networking
  - Conversations among TIPs participants seeded opportunities for further collaborations with all involved.
- 30 applications (22 ViAs and 8 VRAs) went through a comprehensive review process from February-April.
  - ViA review panels met during February and March to review applications. They developed a list of “must-fund” proposals to be passed on to the TIPs Council.

- VRA applicants presented their proposals to the TIPs council throughout February & March. The council met on March 31 to review final recommendations on VRA applications.
- On April 3, the TIPs Council and Panel Co-Chairs met to review the ViA recommendations.
- In May, the TIPs Council Co-Chairs provided Provost Susan Wentz and VUMC CEO Jeff Balser a memo outlining the Council and panel recommendations.
- Progress/Final Reports from 2015 and 2016 awardees were submitted on April 24—these reports provide information on key accomplishments, funding used to date, external funding applied for/won and student engagement.
- Since January, [VU BreakThru](#), a blog devoted to promotion of research produced via Vanderbilt’s internal faculty funding programs, has featured 21 entries focused on TIPs.
  - **February:** [Enhancing Safety and Resilience of Civil Infrastructure Through Interdisciplinary Research: Vanderbilt’s IRIS Initiative](#)
  - **March:** [Designing the Future of Immunotherapy](#)
  - **April:** [Music Cognition as a Window to Development](#)

### Next Steps

- Final recommendations for 2017 TIPs awards will be announced in June.
- Meetings will be scheduled with 2017 award recipients to review and update budgets and program plans to align with award recommendations.
- Fiscal Year 2018 budgets will be approved for the 2015 and 2016 TIPs awards that have an additional year of funding.
- A funding workshop for 2017 recipients is being planned to help faculty and administrators with the funding process and guidelines.
- Over the summer, the successes of the 2017 application cycle will be reviewed and areas for improvement identified. The timeline for the 2018 TIPs cycle will be mapped out.
- Progress/Final report responses will be used within upcoming promotional materials as well as for future funding decisions.

### News

- [VU BreakThru blog highlights faculty accomplishments, showcases possibilities of internal funding programs](#)
- [Faculty invited to learn about TIPs, University Courses in March](#)
- [See photos from March 20 TIPs Fair and Reception](#)
- [Vanderbilt’s first-ever Africa Week set for April 2-7](#)
- [VINSE outreach program reaches milestone](#)

# UNIVERSITY COURSES

## Progress

- A total of 80 students were enrolled in the four 2016-17 University Courses offered. Each of the four courses were team-taught, with a total of eight faculty members involved.
- The second set of University Courses were announced in February. Six new courses were selected:
  - [Rhythm of Change: African Music and African Politics](#)
  - [Virtual Reality for Interdisciplinary Applications](#)
  - [The History and Science of Brewing](#)
  - [Race, Place and Power](#)
  - [Data Science Methods for Smart City Applications](#)
  - [Design Thinking, Design Doing](#)
- The Office of Cross College Initiatives has met with all newly approved courses to discuss funding, logistics and general communication plans.
- University Courses Luncheon Workshop - March 30 in Alumni Hall
  - Approx. 30 faculty members in attendance.
  - Designed to provide faculty with tips for crafting a University Courses syllabus and drafting a winning proposal.
  - Five faculty members who taught a UC this year led table discussions.
  - The Wond'ry, Center for Teaching, VIDL and Center for Digital Humanities detailed ways that faculty involved with a UC could utilize their resources.
- Since its inception in Fall 2016, [VU BreakThru](#), has featured 24 entries focused on University Courses. Entries were submitted by faculty and students from each of the four University Courses offered during this academic year.
  - **February:** The Nation's Health: From Policy to Practice – [Immersion Learning 101: Impromptu Capitol Visit](#)
  - **March:** Justice, Mercy, and Mass Incarceration - [Notes on a Visit to TPFW, the Tennessee Prison for Women](#)

## Next Steps

- Faculty from Spring 2017 courses will be asked to send responses from their end-of-semester course evaluations to identify the program's successes and areas for improvement.
- A MyVU story recapping the four University Courses offered this year (with specific highlights from each course) will be published and distributed on May 1.
- The successes of the 2017 application cycle will be reviewed and areas for improvement identified. The timeline for the 2018 cycle will be mapped out.
- University Courses to be offered during the Fall 2017 semester are:
  - A third offering of Tackling Big Questions with Mobile Cloud Computing
  - Design Thinking, Design Doing
  - Virtual Reality for Interdisciplinary Applications

## News

- [Second set of University Courses announced](#)
- [Faculty invited to learn about University Courses March 30](#)
- [University Courses students meet with legislators during visit to General Assembly](#)
- [Panel discussion on health care reform set for April 3](#)
- [Panelists explore uncertain future of health care reform](#)

## IMMERSION VANDERBILT

### Progress

- The [Martha Rivers Ingram Commons](#) launched a new seminar series entitled “[iSeminars](#),” which were designed to help prepare students for an immersive undergraduate experience.
- Blair, Engineering, and Peabody approved Immersion Vanderbilt as a graduation requirement.
- Road shows to faculty, staff, and parent/family groups, as well as meetings with graduate and professional school deans were held to communicate updates on program development and to gather feedback.
- Meetings with potential campus partners were held to begin developing ideas for connecting Immersion Vanderbilt to their existing programs.

### Next Steps

- Faculty in the College of Arts and Science will continue planning in Fall 2017.
- Continue to meet with potential campus partners.
- Continue the development of an Immersion Vanderbilt database, final projects examples and strategies to support faculty and campus partners

## News

- [\\$1M gift to support research and immersion experiences](#)
- [Learn more about Immersion Vanderbilt at upcoming roadshows](#)

## DESIGN AS AN IMMERSIVE VANDERBILT EXPERIENCE (DIVE)

### Progress

- Presented DIVE to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on College’s On-Site Committee. The committee required no official changes.
- A new website was launched within the Immersion Vanderbilt domain. A video



and comprehensive outline of all components of the initiative was developed to promote this critical component of the reaccreditation process.

- “Design Thinking, Design Doing” was announced as a University Course to be taught in Fall 2017. This course, taught by [David Owens](#) and [Rogers Hall](#), will provide an introduction to theories and practices of design.
- More than 40 students, staff and faculty gathered at the Wond’ry for the [DIVE Boot Camp](#) on March 25 to learn about human-centered design and put it into practice through a series of exercises.

### Next Steps

- Launch [Local OACS DIVE Cohorts](#) in Fall 2017. These three groups (affordable housing, experiences of refugees, and food waste) will provide students a unique opportunity to work together with local non-profit organizations to address community-identified challenges in innovative ways.
- The [Course Design Institute](#) held May 8-10 by the Center for Teaching (CFT) will feature a design thinking track for faculty to better implement human centered design into their courses.
- DIVE co-curricular projects and DeepDIVE experiences will launch in Fall 2017.

### News

- [New DIVE website launched](#)
- [Inaugural DIVE Boot Camp immerses participants in human-centered design](#)

## CHANCELLOR FACULTY FELLOWS

### Progress

- Announced the [2017 CFF cohort](#) of twelve faculty members.
- 2015 and 2016 CFF cohorts attended a dinner with Dean Vanessa Beasley and first-year students.
- 2016 CFF cohort attended a dinner with the Board of Trust.
- Some highlights of current CFFs include:
  - [Rachel Teukolsky](#), associate professor of English and member of the 2015 cohort, received a summer stipend award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for her current book project, [Picture World: The Aesthetic Life of Images in Britain’s Machine Age](#).
  - Sharon Weiss, professor of electrical engineering and member of the 2015 cohort, was named a [Distinguished Lecturer at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Photonic Society](#) for 2016-2017.
  - Sean Seymore, professor of law and chemistry and member of the 2015 cohort, was elected to membership in the American Law Institute and

appointed to the National Institutes of Health's National Institute for General Medical Sciences Advisory Council.

- Christopher Loss, associate professor of public policy and higher education and history and member of the 2016 cohort, co-edited and published [\*The Convergence of K-12 and Higher Education: Policies and Programs in a Changing Era\*](#) and signed a contract with the University of Pennsylvania Press for the forthcoming *Front and Center: Academic Expertise and its Challenges in the Post-1945 United States*

### Next Steps

- The 2017 cohort will have a kick-off dinner on Monday, May 15.
- 2015 CFF cohort will finish on June 30, 2017.
- The 2016 cohort will start its second year and the 2017 cohort will start its first year on July 1, 2017.

### News

- [Twelve faculty members selected as 2017 Chancellor Faculty Fellows](#)

## EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

### Progress

- [2U](#): Vanderbilt and 2U, a cloud-based software that hosts online coursework, executed a contract to begin work producing professional degree programs at Peabody College.
- [Brightspace](#) is replacing Blackboard as Vanderbilt's course management system. The platform launched in April so instructors could plan their upcoming courses.
- The Library executed semester-long programming in conjunction with [Places & Spaces: Mapping Science](#), an exhibit of 100 data maps and interactive components curated by the Cyberinfrastructure for Network Science Center at Indiana University.
- [The Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning](#) (VIDL) is currently reviewing application submissions for its 2017-18 award programs, including Faculty Working Groups, Student Innovation Awards, and Faculty and Staff MacroGrants.
- VIDL and the Center for Teaching produced the second season of [Leading Lines](#), a podcast about the use of educational technology in higher education.
- VIDL launched a four course Coursera specialization in conjunction with the Owen Graduate School of Management entitled "[Business Essentials for Managers.](#)" Upon completion of the four course series, participants will receive a certificate of completion from Vanderbilt.

### Next Steps

- Justice, Mercy, and Mass Incarceration, taught by [Graham Reside](#), will launch as a MOOC in May. This course is the first MOOC from the Divinity School.



## News

- [Online graduate-degree programs for educators launched by Vanderbilt](#)
- [Brightspace launches as Vanderbilt's new course management system](#)
- [Deadlines approaching for VIDL grant and award programs](#)
- ['Leading Lines' podcast launches Season 2](#)

## COLLEGE HALLS

### Progress

- Construction of the new E. Bronson Ingram College progressed and the project remains on schedule for opening in the fall 2018
- A [FutureVU](#) Expo was hosted at the Wond'ry on April 19; students, faculty, and staff learned about Vanderbilt's campus land use planning initiative, including future plans for the college halls.
- DOS coordinated eight forums with student groups to discuss the West End Neighborhood Beautification proposal, and helped select a firm to incorporate the residential colleges into the West End Neighborhood and a future greenway.

### News

- [Commons reading announced for 2017-18](#)
- [Campus learns about land use plan at FutureVU Expo](#)
- [Students, administrators discuss West End neighborhood planning at Chancellor's Town Hall](#)
- [Noble named director of Black Cultural Center, faculty head of Stambaugh House](#)

## GRADUATE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

### Progress

- A working group dedicated to studying housing options for graduate and professional students launched a survey of students to collect feedback. The analysis is underway.
- An ad hoc faculty committee, [established in January](#), recommended four general thematic categories for priority investment of a \$300M endowment to be built over the next several years. The recommendations include significant new investments in graduate education and research that would enable inclusive, broad-based actions focused on building excellence:
  - An endowment to create new graduate Ph.D. scholarships
  - An endowment to support graduate student career development
  - An endowment to launch and sustain global engagement, and interdisciplinary and trans-institutional research



- A matching endowment to create new endowed chairs and faculty fellows
- In partnership with VUIT and in response to the recommendations of the Faculty Advisory committee on Research IT, a working group was formed, comprising faculty and VUIT staff, and the group has met for several months. A draft of the working group report is forthcoming.
- The Leveraged Proposal Organization and Development (L-POD) program launched by meeting with deans from Peabody, VUSE, A&S, and SOM-BS to identify strategic opportunities for large-scale external awards

### Next Steps

- Over the summer, the Provost will work with the deans to draft an implementation process to further refine plans for the \$300M endowment.
- The final designs for graduate Ph.D. scholarship and education programs, along with new research initiatives, will be developed through faculty, staff and student working groups assembled this fall.
- A town hall will be hosted at the beginning of the fall semester to kick off this in-depth design phase and charge the working groups.

### News

- [Research IT Working Group](#)
- [April Open 'Dore: Investing in Our Future](#)
- [Mark Wallace shares the state and future of graduate education in series of presentations around campus](#)

## INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

### Progress

- The International Strategy Working Group assessed all feedback from surveys and interviews conducted this past winter.
- The working group released an executive summary of findings and posted on the Academic Strategic Plan website.

### Next Steps

- Over the summer, a longer more detailed report will be drafted

### News

- [International Strategy Working Group issues draft Executive Summary](#)