

Academic Strategic Plan Progress Report

Activity Summary for February - April 2016

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Undergraduate Residential Experience

Immersion Vanderbilt

Meetings and Progress

- **Committee Work** – The committee finalized the outcomes and basic parameters for Immersion Vanderbilt. Outcomes summarized here:
 - Tangible academic product as a result of the experience;
 - Creation of an individualized learning plan as a mechanism to keep students accountable throughout their undergraduate career;
 - Engagement outside the classroom in order to develop skills and knowledge;
 - Development of a network of support for student mentoring.
- **Committee Work on Study Abroad** - The Faculty Advisory Council on International Education (FACIE) provided the following recommendations for study abroad that can be measured, mapped, and reflected upon in order to define immersive study abroad experiences:
 - Broad definition of “study abroad” to accommodate programs variable in length and scope
 - No mandate for foreign language proficiency or study
 - Require pre-planning and post-study reflection
 - Assessment on three key domains: knowledge, skills, and attitude
 - Expand summer support for Global Summer Fellowships
 - Define role of the GEO and provision accordingly
 - Promote international programs as a gateway to immersion beyond one’s major
 - Clarify faculty time allotment for supervising, and “counting” mechanism for supervising non-majors

- **Sub-Committee Work on Lab Science** – The Immersion sub-committee identified necessary components for a laboratory research immersion program, developed a handbook template for departments, as well as a rubric, drafted a departmental policy manual and outlined recommendations for a 3-phase approach:
 - Phase 1: Literature review, hypothesis development, basic methods review and safety training
 - Phase 2: Primary research
 - Phase 3: Complete research, data analysis, and presentation
- **Quality Enhancement Plan Proposals** - Following the January 15, 2016 finalist proposal submission deadline, the three finalist proposals were circulated for broad campus feedback. An online feedback form was provided for community members to comment on the proposals. A myVU article was published on February 1, 2016 advertising the feedback period. Finally, the QEP Topic Selection Committee sponsored a QEP Town Hall on February 29, 2016 to present and discuss the finalist QEP proposals. A presentation was made to VSG as well as graduate and professional students. Over the course of the feedback period, there were thirteen different online and in-person outreach efforts to garner feedback. A recommendation was made to the Provost and the chosen proposal will be announced in May.
- **Immersion Retreat** – Provost Susan Wentz, campus leaders and faculty members came together for a half-day retreat to review progress made to date and discuss priorities and next steps. Key take-aways from the retreat include:
 - Faculty governance needs to be worked out by the end of the next academic year to sync with Admissions needs and to allow time for the school approval process
 - A detailed operational plan/program guide will help clarify/inform constituents
 - A centralized model of support should be developed and vetted
 - A more robust communications plan is needed; including keeping leadership regularly informed
 - Special student populations should be considered as the program is developed
- **Immersion Vanderbilt Website** – Progress has been made with an initial layout of the home page developed. Content build out is ongoing.

News

- [Feedback requested on QEP finalist proposals](#)

Next Steps

- The Immersion Vanderbilt website content is in development and will be distributed for beta-testing/review over the summer.
- QEP proposal will be selected and announced prior to commencement with a coinciding myVU press release.
- Summer action plan includes development of the following for vetting in the coming academic year:
 - Opportunity Phase Communications Plan
 - QEP Implementation Plan
 - Faculty Governance Guide
 - Student Handbook
 - Central Administrative Model

Co-Curricular Engagement External to the College Halls (CEECH):

Meetings and Progress

- **Faculty-in-Residence Program:** On March 29 and 30, Vice Provost Cynthia Cyrus resided with students in Branscomb Quadrangle as the faculty-in-residence program’s inaugural event. The program created space for students to engage directly with Vice Provost Cyrus through a dinner and discussion focused on *Immersion Vanderbilt* on March 29, and an open-door “hang-out” for students and VP Cyrus to discuss topics of interest over dessert on March 30. Vice Provost Cyrus also engaged with the Resident Advisor

staff during their weekly staff meeting and participated in an RA duty round of the area. At the conclusion of the two-day program, nearly one hundred (100) students had the opportunity to meet with Vice Provost Cyrus and engage in dialogue.

- **Increased faculty engagement:** In response to the CEECH Report, the Office of Housing and Residential Education has increased faculty engagement through hallmark residential programs across multiple non-LLC residences, including Branscomb Quadrangle, Carmichael Towers, and Highland Quadrangle. Events included Casual Coffee Hours on Alumni Lawn (17 student attendants, 5 professors engaged); Faculty Dinners in Branscomb (48 student attendants, 6 professors engaged); Carmichael Towers Tuesdays (217 students engaged across four events); Carmichael Faculty Dinner with Lecturer Rebecca Chapman; Highland Quadrangle Faculty Dinners (7 faculty dinners in March and April)

News

N/A

Next Steps

- **Co-curricular Fellows Type Program (VIP Program):** Preparation has begun to launch this revitalized program in fall 2016 in order to develop trans-institutional, non-building-based living-learning communities. Students will select research topics and receive recognition for engaging in a series of student-selected co-curricular opportunities (lectures, etc.). This program connects students to resources in each of the undergraduate colleges.
 - Update: The Residential Education staff has submitted the final draft proposal for the Co-curricular Fellows Type Program (VIP Program), and will be pursuing further conversation regarding the efficacy of the program's integration into a joint venture between Residential Education and the Academic Affairs.

Cross College Teaching

Meetings and Progress

- The inaugural set of **University Courses** was announced in February. The program was launched to foster interdisciplinary teaching and learning and to offer students courses that leverage "One Vanderbilt" and address "big ideas" or "grand challenges." Two faculty committees assessed 25 course proposals from faculty across campus. Vice Provost John Geer chaired the committee that reviewed proposals for the University Courses. André Christie-Mizell, associate professor of sociology and of American studies, chaired a second committee that evaluated the Multicultural University Course proposals. The new courses will be offered during the 2016-17 academic year and potentially future years after approval by the relevant curriculum committees. They are:
 - Tackling Big Questions with Mobile Cloud Computing
 - Social Entrepreneurship
 - Historic Black Nashville
 - Justice, Mercy and Incarceration
 - The Nation's Health: From Policy to Practice

News

- [First set of University Courses announced](#)

Next Steps

- The courses are slated to run in either the fall of 2016 or spring 2017.
- A second call will be considered for the 2016-17 school year for 2017-18 course launch.

Trans-Institutional Programs

Meetings and Progress

- **2016 TIPS Awards:** 35 full proposals have been reviewed by the TIPS Council and Review Panels and recommendations have been made to the Provost and Chancellor for consideration. Final award decisions are to be announced in May 2016.
- **2015 TIPS Awards:** The 17 awardees were asked to provide a report on their progress in their first year of funding. A RedCap form was created to collect the information, which will include reports on funding used to date, research progress and student engagement.

News

- N/A

Next Steps

- 2016 Awards to be announced and funding processed
- 2015 Awards to be reviewed and funding renewed for year two

Healthcare Solutions

Meetings and Progress

- The Academic Strategic Plan is guiding on-going work related to the university-medical center restructuring to ensure collaborations continue to flourish post-transition. A number of faculty and administrators have met to consider new joint degrees, graduate certificates and other educational programs related to the healthcare solutions initiatives that would draw on faculty from multiple schools. In addition, many of the TIPS proposals relate to the Healthcare Solutions initiatives. Announcements on proposals chosen will take place in May 2016.

Education Technologies

Meetings and Progress

- **Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning** – Launched an innovation grant program in partnership with VUIT that includes four components: 1) faculty working group awards (up to \$4,000.00), 2) student innovation awards (up to \$500.00), 3) microgrants (up to \$500.00), and 4) macrogrants (from \$1,000.00 to \$10,000.00).
- **Digital Humanities** - Vanderbilt University received a \$1.5 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to establish a new Center for Digital Humanities. The trans-institutional initiative will further Vanderbilt's commitment to becoming a national hub of innovative digital humanities scholarship. Faculty, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows will have funding opportunities through new competitive Mellon Fellowships in the Digital Humanities. The center also will host a new joint degree

Ph.D. program and a creative media lab. The Ph.D. program, Comparative Media Analysis and Practice, will advance the critical investigation of modern media culture and the innovative design of media objects. The lab will feature open space for researching, teaching, meeting and tinkering and serve as a hub for faculty and students interested in the intersections of art, technology, science and culture. The center, set to open in Buttrick Hall this fall, also will host conferences, workshops, lectures and demonstrations.

- [VIDL Ed-Tech Resource Finder Website](#): The Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning launched an online 'how-to' resource finder that directs community members to educational technology resources, such as learning to flip a classroom, teaching with Blackboard, sharing digital content, and contributing to digital humanities, among other tools. **Production of Bi-weekly Podcasts**: VIDL, Associate Provost John Sloop-, the CFT, and the library will launch a bi-weekly podcast on the current state of digital learning at VU; recording is in progress.

News

- [Mellon Foundation awards \\$1.5 million to Vanderbilt for new Center for Digital Humanities](#)
- [Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning calls for microgrant proposals](#)
- [Wild Bunch Lecture](#)

Next Steps

- Launch the digital learning web portal in preparation for fall 2016, which will serve as a comprehensive portal for all things related to digital learning, including the ed tech resource finder.
- Ongoing preparation for the "Wild Bunch" Science Mapping exhibit and related programming in Spring 2017.
- Launch new course evaluation software in preparation for Fall 2016 course evaluations.
- Diversify MOOC and online platforms in AY16-7.
- Expand revenue producing non-degree courses and programs.