

# ACADEMIC STRATEGIC PLAN

## SPRING 2017 UPDATE REPORT

*ACTIVITY SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY – MAY 2016*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b><u>TRANS-INSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>
<b><u>UNIVERSITY COURSES</u></b>	<b><u>3</u></b>
<b><u>IMMERSION VANDERBILT</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>
<b><u>DESIGN AS AN IMMERSIVE VANDERBILT EXPERIENCE (DIVE)</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>
<b><u>CHANCELLOR FACULTY FELLOWS</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>
<b><u>EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES</u></b>	<b><u>6</u></b>
<b><u>COLLEGE HALLS</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
<b><u>GRADUATE EDUCATION</u></b>	<b><u>7</u></b>
<b><u>INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY</u></b>	<b><u>8</u></b>

### 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](#)

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## 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

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## 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



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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

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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.



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## 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

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- 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](#)