

Immersion Committee End of Year Report

Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

Immersion and Faculty Governance

- AY 2016-17 was a critical year for Immersion Vanderbilt as it relates to faculty governance. This year's committee worked diligently to craft elements of the program necessary for successful curriculum proposals to the four undergraduate schools and colleges.
- In order to address critical programmatic areas, Immersion Committee members served on one of four subcommittees with the following focuses and conclusions:
 - **Current Students and Special Populations** – This committee discussed Immersion Vanderbilt as it relates to students enrolled prior to fall 2018, transfer students, and special student populations. The subcommittee, in consultation with the Office of the University Registrar, determined that students enrolled prior to fall 2018 could be eligible to receive recognition should they complete the requirements for Immersion. The form of recognition is still to be determined. They reported that transfer students should have Immersion experiences considered in the admissions process, and that the degree requirement portion of Immersion for transfer students should be implemented on a rolling basis.
 - **Grading and General Requirements** – This subcommittee, in consultation with the Office of the University Registrar, developed the specifics of Immersion transcript reporting. They also determined that the Immersion Plan and Immersion Project should be reflected on the degree audit in YES. Similarly, registration holds will be used to ensure students make satisfactory progress towards completion of the Immersion requirement throughout the undergraduate career.
 - **Funding** – This subcommittee investigated funding mechanisms to ensure that there were not two tiers of Immersion experiences. The subcommittee explored the ways in which summer stipends associated with merit-based scholarships could be re-directed towards Immersion, as well as integrating moderate Immersion costs into tuition to fund students' experiences. They agreed that additional costs should not be incurred during the academic year.
 - **Professional Schools and Faculty** – This subcommittee recommended that the central Immersion Office should be led by a director from the faculty and that the

Immersion program as a whole should be advised by a non-adjudicative Faculty Advisory Committee. They also recommended that professional schools develop proscribed Immersion programs in which students could participate. This would lessen the burden on professional school faculty and provide students with a designated point of contact in the schools.

- The committee provided key insight to the status of Immersion Vanderbilt as it progressed through the four undergraduate schools' various faculty governance processes. Ultimately, Immersion Vanderbilt passed as a degree requirement in Blair, Peabody, and Engineering. Further discussion will take place during the 2017-18 AY in the College of Arts & Science.
- In conjunction with faculty governance, the Immersion Committee developed a proposal for a university-wide central Immersion support office. This office, to be launched in AY 2017-18, will provide resources, support, and coordination for immersion experiences as necessary in alignment with the individual school/college's approved Immersion process.

Immersion Marketing & Communications

- The Immersion Committee was engaged in marketing initiatives. Efforts included the creation of a logo, pathway icons, strategic messaging, and an overall style guide for the program.
- In November 2016, the [Immersion Vanderbilt](#) website was launched. This website provides faculty, students, and staff with a clear understanding of the initiative as faculty in the undergraduate schools and colleges actively develop and refine Immersion. Since its launch, the Immersion Vanderbilt website has been visited over 7,680 times.
- By request of the faculty committee, the Vanderbilt Communications Working Group was convened with the goal of integrating Immersion communications efforts. The Immersion Committee worked to provide the Communications Working Group with stories of existing Immersive experiences for the creation of web content and visual media.

Immersion Roadshows

- Immersion Vanderbilt Roadshows were held throughout the academic year. Led by John Geer, Vice Provost for Academic and Strategic Affairs, these Roadshows providing meaningful communications opportunities with the Blair Curriculum Committee, the Peabody Academic Standards and Procedures Committee, the School of Engineering

faculty, University Enrollment Affairs, and the greater campus community of faculty and staff.

- These faculty-focused presentations shared the central administrative model and planning undertaken by the Immersion Committee to date. The presentations were designed to support the process of gaining input from the faculty of all four undergraduate schools and colleges.

Immersion on the Commons

- iSeminars – optional, one-credit hour classes based on the existing Commons Seminar framework – were developed and launched by a pilot cohort of 10 faculty members, many of whom served on the Immersion Committee.
 - iSeminars prepare first year students for immersion experiences later in their college career.
 - iSeminars feedback was so positive that all Commons Seminars offered in AY 2017-18 will be iSeminars.