Academic Strategic Plan
Progress Report

Activity Summary for September/October 2015

Undergraduate Residential Experience

Immersion Vanderbilt

Meetings and Progress
- The committee has met twice during the months of September and October and focused on identifying how many students are currently having immersive experiences. Inventories of current student practices indicates that as many as 60 to 75 percent of a given class may already be engaging in immersive experiences.
- The committee is refining a structure for immersions that places experiences into one of four categories: global, experiential, research or creative expression. Parameters are to be set for each category along with examples to serve as a guide for faculty and students.
- The committee is working to develop a communications plan that corresponds to each stage of implementation: opportunity, expectation and requirement phases.
- The committee has also begun exploring faculty and staff advising models.
- The laboratory immersion subcommittee met once and is working to develop the basic outlines of a natural science immersion experience for undergraduate students, including prerequisites to and criteria for such an experience.

Next Steps
- Meetings will continue through the course of the semester with the goals of refining the communications plan and structure/parameters documents.
- Development of the Immersion Vanderbilt website will begin in November.
- The staff and student advisory committees will review both the communications plan and structure/parameter overview to provide input.

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Topic Selection Committee:

Meetings and Progress
- The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Topic Selection Committee was convened in August 2015 to make a topic recommendation to the Provost by Spring 2016 in preparation for the selection and implementation of the QEP in Spring 2016 and Fall 2017, respectively. Vanderbilt's QEP topic will focus on Immersion Vanderbilt.
- The QEP committee solicited immersion topic ideas from the community and has conducted an initial assessment of submissions.

Next Steps

- The committee will meet again on November 4, 2015 to select the semi-finalists who will be invited to submit full-length proposals due to the committee by January 15, 2016.
- Two town-hall meetings will be held in the spring to present and discuss the finalist proposals. There will be a presentation to VSG regarding the topics; the students will be provided review forms. There will be a presentation to grad/prof student representatives; the students will be provided review forms.
- Timeline:
  - Feb 15-March 15: feedback and costs to be considered by QEP committee.
  - March 15, 2016: recommendation of top 3 topics to Provost.
  - April 2016: Announcement of QEP
  - Fall 2017: Launch of QEP

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

Meetings and Progress
- The CEECH task force (charged with developing programming proposals for co-curricular faculty and graduate/professional student involvement in residencies external to the college halls) issued a report with several proposals to increase student engagement and enhance undergraduate residence life. After consultation with the Office of Housing and Residential Education (OHARE), leaders of Vanderbilt Student Government, Dean of the Commons Vanessa Beasley and Provost Susan Wente, four of the group's recommendations were adopted for piloting, including:
  - Co-curricular Fellows Program, an effort being coordinated by OHARE to develop trans-institutional, non-building-based living-learning communities;
  - Co-curricular Supper Clubs, an initiative in partnership with VSG for dinner events focused on particular themes;
  - Extending Connections to First Year Houses, led by Beasley, which aims to promote connections between upper-class students and their first-year houses; and
  - Short-Term Faculty-in-Residence, a pilot program considering an apartment configuration for short-term residence by a faculty member.

Next Steps
- Work begins immediately to carry out the recommendations of the CEECH task force and will continue throughout the academic year.

Cross College Teaching

Meetings and Progress
- The committee has chosen to institute an award council that will receive proposals for "University Courses" to foster interdisciplinary teaching and learning. University Courses should address big questions, be innovative, leverage One Vanderbilt and further interdisciplinary synergies. Chosen courses will be provided funding for one year, renewable for subsequent years with approval by the council.
- The committee has drafted an initial program overview and is vetting the document through various channels including staff and student advisory committees and the Chancellor's office.

Next Steps
- After input is collected in early November and a communications plan developed, the program will be launched with an application deadline target date of January 2016.

- A REDCap submission form will be developed and workshops scheduled to promote the opportunity to faculty members and to share best practices.

Trans-Institutional Programs

Meetings and Progress
- The TIPS Council met to review "hits and misses" from last year's award process. A REDCap submission form was developed to streamline applicant submissions and processing by staff members. A REDCap form was also created to standardize reviews conducted by the TIPS Review Panels and to facilitate sharing feedback.
- 61 pre-proposals were submitted involving over 400 collaborators in all schools and colleges.

61 TIPS Pre-Proposals for 2015-2016		
School	**Primary Investigators**	**Collaborators**
A&S	20	100
Blair	0	2
Divinity	1	2
Engineering	16	81
Law	0	5
Med	19	173
Nursing	2	7
Owen	0	8
Peabody	3	26
Total	**61**	**404**

Next Steps
- The council will review the pre-proposals to determine which should proceed to the full-proposal stage.

Healthcare Solutions

Meetings and Progress
- Over the summer, the Health Care Solutions Task Force issued a survey with a list of the 10 initiatives listed in the Academic Strategic Plan asking two questions: which centers, institutes and programs currently address the 10 initiatives outlined by the plan; and which could potentially address them in the future. The survey findings were analyzed by the task force and led to the development of a number of recommendations and next steps. A report summarizing the task force's findings has been submitted to Vice Chancellor Jeff Balser and Provost Susan Wente for input.

Next Steps
- The report, once finalized, will be posted to the Academic Strategic Plan website for additional community input and a timeline for implementing the recommendations will be developed.

Education Technologies

Meetings and Progress
- John Sloop assumed the role of Associate Provost for Digital Learning and will report to Cynthia Cyrus, Vice Provost for Residential and Learning Affairs. As associate provost for digital learning, Sloop will focus on the development and implementation of school-based educational technology initiatives and the university's overall exploration of digital learning. His responsibilities include supporting the digital goals outlined in the strategic plan, such as:
    - Creating new infrastructure to enable personalized and connected learning;
    - Building partnerships among the many groups on campus working in educational technology;
    - Launching new curriculum in communication and information technology, data analysis, data visualization and analytics;
    - Investing in research on the impact of new education technologies on learning; and
    - Encouraging the use of new education technologies to forge partnerships, collaborations and global outreach.
    - In addition, he will oversee the Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning and provide oversight of campus partnerships and experimentation with Coursera, Blackboard and other digital platforms.

Next Steps

- The next meeting of the Ed Tech Strategy Committee will be on November 12, 2015. Work during the semester will focus on resourcing and implementing the recommendations of the strategic plan related to the Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning (VIDL) Advisory Board, Center for Teaching (CFT) working groups, and faculty advisory groups

Ed Tech Roadshow

Meetings and Progress
- EdTech Roadshows: Leaders from the Center for Teaching (CFT), Jean and Alexander Heard Library, and the Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning (VIDL) are visiting university stakeholders to discuss educational technology at Vanderbilt. As one of the pillars of the Academic Strategic Plan, innovation in educational technology is a top priority for the university and the roadshows are an important follow-along to last year's educational technology survey to faculty. Presentations include updates on current ed-tech initiatives, strategies for incorporating technology into the classroom, and a forum to ask campus experts about digital learning at Vanderbilt. The Ed Tech Roadshow has made nine presentations in Fall 2015 to the following groups:
    - School of Nursing Faculty
    - Jean and Alexander Heard Library All-Staff
    - Blair School of Music Faculty
    - The "Student Support Services" working group consisting of leaders across student academic support units.
    - Owen School of Management Faculty
    - Divinity School Faculty
    - Law School Faculty
    - Peabody College Faculty

- o School of Engineering Faculty

Next Steps
- The roadshow has two additional presentations scheduled this semester, including:
  - o Vanderbilt Student Government
  - o College of Arts & Science Faculty
- The roadshow will be taping their presentation in VIDL's new self-service studio so that the VU community can view their presentation online.
- The roadshow will continue to visit campus constituents throughout the semester to provide information on educational technology.

The Learning Group
- The Learning Group, consisting of academic affairs leaders in residential education, international affairs, digital learning, and the library, was convened by the Vice Provost for Learning and Residential Affairs in Fall 2015 in order to share information across professional disciplines and to discuss best practices in academic affairs. The group is a primary vehicle to communicate about the intersection of educational technology and academic affairs and meets every three weeks. The Learning Group has met three times during Fall 2015.

Advisory Boards

Staff Advisory Board
- The group will be convened in November and will focus on reviewing and providing input on immersion and cross-college teaching committee work.

Student Advisory Board
- The student advisory board is being reconstituted with current undergraduate, graduate and professional students. The group will be convened in November and will focus on reviewing and providing input on immersion and cross-college teaching committee work.

MyVU Stories

- Pilot programs launch to enhance the residential experience
- Surgery and engineering initiative becomes institute
- TIPs pre-proposals due Oct. 23; proposal workshops scheduled
- Immersion, cross-college teaching strategic initiatives taking shape
- Investments in graduate education announced; forums scheduled
- Sloop named associate provost for digital learning
- Provost seeks ideas for new immersion project