

ACADEMIC STRATEGIC PLAN

WINTER 2017 UPDATE REPORT

ACTIVITY SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 2016 – JANUARY 2017

ASP Communications

- The Academic Strategic Plan [website](#) was updated and overhauled during the Fall 2016 semester. The ASP website is now primarily for reporting, tracking and promoting efforts tied to the plan but the initiatives and programs borne of the plan either have or will have their own dedicated sites or pages within provost areas so that they become further institutionalized. The ASP site now features an interactive timeline that documents key milestones, and a dynamic "slider" that rotates through significant accomplishments.
- In order to streamline our application process, a new [OCCI website](#) was designed to provide faculty information about four internally-funded grant programs— including Trans-institutional programs and University Courses, initiatives specifically developed from the ASP.
- [VU Breakthru](#), a blog promoting the progress and research of various internal funding programs and cross-college initiatives was launched in the late fall semester.

Trans-institutional Programs

Progress

- **2017 Process**
 - 39 pre-proposals were submitted for the 2017 cycle, 29 were approved to submit full proposals.
 - Monthly MyVU stories highlighting a sampling of 2015 and 2016 Awards are being published throughout the Spring 2017 semester.
 - **2015 TIPs Highlight**
 - [NetsBlox](#): This team of computer scientists and educators has made great headway in creating accessible computer science education modules for K-12 and university students. The ViA has recently received an [EAGER grant](#) to accelerate development while also meshing the project with another [NSF funded](#) initiative that partners with Stanford and SRI International.
 - **2016 TIPs Highlight**
 - [Vanderbilt Program for Next Generation Vaccines—Integrating Structural Biology with Big Data](#): Brings together scientists across three schools to
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create a complex pipeline that integrates structural biology with big data, spurring the development of next-generation vaccines. This initiative is involved in the annual [Rosetta Antibody Workshop](#) at Vanderbilt as they will host a [Symposium on Modeling Immunity](#) on April 27.

Next Steps

- The [TIPs Fair & Reception](#) on March 20th will serve to encourage broader participation in the TIPs program by providing attendees the opportunity to learn about current TIPs projects, network with TIPs PIs and meet with other faculty members interested in developing a TIPs proposal.
- The [TIPs Council and Review Panels](#) are currently reviewing full proposals and announcements of awardees will be made in May.

News

- [Brazil TIPs project may unlock key answers in health care delivery while creating immersive student research opportunities](#)
- [“Vocations in Racial Justice” topic of community breakfast](#)

University Courses

Progress

- **Spring 2017 Courses**
 - **UNIV 3278/5278:** Tackling Big Questions with Mobile Cloud Computing (15 enrolled)
 - **UNIV 3325:** Health Policy Analysis & Advocacy (20 enrolled)
 - **UNIV 5150:** Justice, Mercy, and Mass Incarceration (21 enrolled)
- **Communications Plan**
 - [Blog pages](#) have been created to share insights into the University Course experience for both faculty and students
 - To promote University Course enrollment and general awareness of the program, we developed posters, distributed emails from the registrar, and ran several [MyVU stories](#).
- **2017-18 Process**
 - Deadline for new applications was December 12th.
 - 13 total applications—9 general and 4 multicultural.
 - The General and Multicultural Committees met in January to review the proposals. Both committee's recommendations have been presented to the Provost for final decisions to be released in February.

Next Steps

- Utilize end-of-semester course evaluations from Fall 2016 to track progress of understand successes and areas for improvement.
- Host a University Course development workshop this spring to assist faculty in the creation of these multi-disciplinary/trans-institutional courses.



News

- [Spring 2017 University Courses to examine health policy, mass incarceration and mobile cloud computing](#)
- [Students in University Course ‘Historic Black Nashville’ visit Fort Negley](#)
- [Schmidt, White, peers across Vanderbilt teach mobile cloud computing to diverse majors](#)

Immersion Vanderbilt

Progress

- [A new website](#) was designed and launched in November 2016, providing faculty, students, and staff with a clear understanding of the initiative as it continues to be molded.
- **“Road show” presentations conducted for various university constituencies:**
 - Blair School of Music’s Curriculum Committee
 - Peabody College of Education and Human Development’s Academic Standards and Procedures Committee
 - University Enrollment Affairs
 - Open road show for faculty and staff
- **Developed and launched [iSeminars](#) for Spring 2017**
 - Optional, one-credit, classes for first-year undergraduates only.
 - Prepare first year students for immersion experiences later in their college career. Examples include:
 - [Designing an Immersive Engineering Experience](#)
 - [Strategies for a Successful Study Abroad Experience](#)
 - [Finding Meaning in the College Jungle](#)
 - [Creative Expression and the Search for an Authentic Truth](#)
- Provost’s [November edition of *The Open Dore*](#) was dedicated to the progress of Immersion Vanderbilt

Next Steps

- Refine subcommittee recommendations
- Continue faculty governance steps with each undergraduate college or school.
- Continued development of guidebook and central infrastructure materials.
- Continue road shows for faculty & staff; start road shows for current students.

News

- [25 new endowed faculty chairs will support Academic Strategic Plan](#)



DIVE (Design as an Immersive Vanderbilt Experience)

Progress

- [The DIVE Finalization Committee](#) developed four pathways to facilitate the DIVE experience:
 - 1) **Boot Camps:** All Vanderbilt community members may participate in a DIVE Boot Camp, including undergraduate students, graduate and professional students, staff, and faculty. The goal of the Boot Camps are to provide broad campus exposure to human-centered design.
 - 2) **Co-curricular Projects:** Undergraduate students will explore human-centered design projects with a variety of co-curricular campus organizations, such as the [Office of Active Citizenship and Service \(OACS\)](#).
 - 3) **Enhanced Existing Courses:** Teaching faculty will partner with DIVE to add design projects to their existing courses. DIVE-approved courses will be offered in a variety of departments, such as Theatre, Human and Organizational Development (HOD), and Mechanical Engineering.
 - 4) **University Courses:** A 2017-18 submission for a University Course featuring human-centered design is entitled “Design Thinking, Design Doing.”
- The DIVE finalization committee finalized the draft SACS report.
- The DIVE assessment committee developed polls, surveys, and rubrics for assessing student-learning outcomes.

Next Steps

- Submit the Quality Enhancement Plan to SACS-COC in February 2017.
- Launch the DIVE website, video, and marketing campaign in February 2017.
- Hold the first Boot Camp in March 2017.
- Pilot the first enhanced existing course in Spring 2017 – THTR 2781: The History of Fashion: Sex and Propaganda.
- Formally launch the four DIVE pathways in Fall 2017.

Chancellor Faculty Fellows

Progress

- TIPs committee reviewed the nominations for the 2017 cohort and made their recommendations.
- The 2015 and 2016 CFF cohorts were invited to the Commons Dean’s dinner series.

Next Steps

- The 2017 CFF cohort will be notified early in the spring 2017 semester.
- The 2015 and 2016 cohorts will be invited to programming for the spring 2017 semester. This includes a Strategic Plan discussion with university leadership.



Educational Technologies

Progress

- **Course and Teaching Evaluations:** Following a review of practices, Vanderbilt successfully implemented a new course evaluation system in Fall 2017. Participating schools included the Blair, Arts & Science, Divinity, The Graduate School, Peabody College, and the School of Engineering. The new software system was utilized in over 45,000 evaluations in Fall 2017.
- **New Course Management System:** [Brightspace](#) was selected as the new course management system, replacing Blackboard in summer 2017. The selection was made by a committee of faculty, staff, and students after a needs assessment and vendor selection process was organized by the Center for Teaching.
- **2U:** A formal university partnership with [2U](#), a cloud-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) technology that provides a comprehensive infrastructure for hosting online coursework, has been established. Vanderbilt is currently in the contract negotiation phase with 2U, with the hope of launching a professional degree program in Fall 2017.
- **Digital Literacy Initiatives:** Associate Provost John Sloop launched a university-wide committee on digital literacy charged with:
 - Providing a definition of digital literacy that will apply to undergraduate, graduate and professional student
 - Recommending curricular and co-curricular initiatives to facilitate the development of the digitally literate student.
- **[The Center for Digital Humanities](#)** opened on January 26, creating a dynamic hub in Buttrick Hall for scholarly projects using digital tools.

Next Steps

- Complete the contract negotiation phase with 2U, with the hope of launching a professional degree program in Fall 2017.
- Continue committee work surrounding digital literacy initiatives
- Fully implement Brightspace as the course management system in Summer 2017

News

- [New system launching for course and teaching evaluations](#)
- [Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning offers grant opportunities](#)
- [New center supports digital exploration in the humanities](#)
- [Unique exhibition will ‘map’ science and visualize data at four campus locations beginning Jan. 23](#)



Graduate Education

Progress

- In conjunction with [FutureVU](#), the campus land use planning process, a working group has been formed to tackle the issue of graduate and professional student housing on campus.
- **Graduate Education & Research Endowment Committee** - Utilizing the input compiled from committees across Vanderbilt's ten schools and colleges, this [committee](#) was charged to work together with the Provost to prepare a set of recommendations for the Chancellor on how to deploy a proposed endowment fund for graduate education and research (first set into action during the [Fall Faculty Assembly](#)).

Next Steps

- The Graduate Education & Research Endowment Committee has been charged with providing recommendations (based on school/college memos) to Provost Wenthe which will then be put into a report for the Chancellor. Target is to share with the Chancellor by the beginning of March.

News

- [Provost names faculty committee to advise on major investment in graduate education and research](#)
- [Future of graduate and professional student housing focus on chancellor's working group](#)
- [Colleges and schools to make recommendations on future investments in graduate education and research](#)

International Strategy Working Group

Progress

- **Faculty Survey:** The international strategy working group has crafted a survey, which takes less than 10 minutes to complete, that queries faculty on their individual international work and experience, the challenges they have faced, and their ideas and vision for expanding the international visibility and impact of both their work and of the university overall.

Next Steps

- The committee will analyze the survey results as well as feedback and reports developed by the sub-committees. The committee is hosting a workshop in February to synthesize the information and begin developing the report to the Provost.



News

- [Survey launched to gather faculty feedback on university's International Strategy Working Group](#)

The Provost's Initiatives to Enhance Research and Scholarship (PIERS)

Progress

- **Website Reorganization and Design** – The [Research @ Vanderbilt](#) website was redesigned and relaunched to better direct faculty, students and staff to resources and to better promote the ground-breaking discoveries and scholarship taking place as well as ties to the Academic Strategic Plan.
- **Vanderbilt University Research Council** – Met three times and considered projects to increase recognition and establish Vanderbilt as the leader in important and emerging thematic areas of research and scholarship and in trans-institutional learning and discovery.
- **Leveraged Proposal Organization and Development (L-POD)** – Hired a staff member in consultation with the VURC to support faculty-led proposal development for prestigious or complex extramural sponsorship.

News

- [Establishment of Vanderbilt University Research Council](#)
- [Launch of PIERS](#)
- [The Open Dore: From 2016 to 2017: Next Steps for Research and Scholarship at Vanderbilt](#)

Next Steps

- Enhancing VURC with representation from School of Medicine Clinical departments
- Identification and development of next set of major research website enhancements
- Presentation of PIERS to Faculty Senate

