

Strategic Planning Steering Committee  
Meeting July 23, 2015  
Meeting summary

**Present:**

Diane Yu  
Marvin Krislov  
Kathryn Stuart  
Carol Christ  
Brian Doan

**Board Members**

Chris Canavan  
Lillie Edwards  
Michael Kamarck  
Robert Lemle  
David Shapira  
Leanne Wagner  
Alan Wurtzel

**Alumni**

Andrea Hargrave  
Chuck Spitulnik

**A&S Faculty**

Ron Cheung  
Bob Geitz  
Chris Howell

Maureen Peters  
Sandy Zagarell

**Conservatory Faculty**

David Breitman  
Lorraine Manz

**Senior Staff**

Tim Elgren  
Andrea Kalyn

**A&PS**

Deborah Campana  
Andria Derstine  
David Kamitsuka

**Students**

Hayden Arp  
Avalon McKee  
Sarah Minion

Summary of Meeting July 1, 2015 approved.

Comments from Bob Geitz and Chris Howell on behalf of faculty members on the Steering Committee regarding academic programs:

- Faculty understand the need to balance budget but are concerned about students and about the academic programs if there are budget reductions.
- Faculty compare themselves with those at other elite colleges. By comparison, Oberlin faculty are very stretched and the recommendations under consideration for the strategic plan are asking for more faculty work.

Marvin Krislov and board members' response to the faculty

- The issues raised about our academic program are central to our mission of recruiting and retaining outstanding students and faculty and the president has already had discussion with Mike Frandsen and the deans about some of these issues.
- Need to remember that 80% of our revenue comes from tuition. As Mike Frandsen said at the last meeting, we need to consider enrollment/tuition and financial aid.
- Only about 5 of the proposed recommendations in the draft plan have financial implications.
- Mike Frandsen's team and senior staff are in discussions about revenue enhancement and savings.
- Mike Frandsen and Marvin Krislov will form a small budget group to talk about financial implications of the strategic plan.

Discussion about Mission Statement

- There was consensus about the draft mission statement with deletion of the second paragraph.

Discussion about connected learning. Points included:

- Review of the areas the working group developed: weaving advising and diversity into whole educational experience, creating opportunity for international study, creating and promoting interdisciplinary work across departments/divisions, integration of alumni and career center.
- Use of technology in teaching to enhance pedagogy.
- Suggestion to review an earlier document for language that is broader, better, and would be more appealing to faculty e.g., “holistic connections among different modes of inquiry.”
- Libraries and research both important to the concept of connected learning.
- Inherent tension between a short and succinct document and the need for additional explanations.
- We want to be recognized as a place where students and faculty can easily traverse departmental and divisional divides so students can learn to see multiple approaches to problem solving.
- Reference mission statement to set up discussion of connected learning as something distinctive.

Discussion about equity, diversity, and inclusion. Points of discussion included:

- Equity, diversity, and inclusion a critical component of educational excellence.
- “Values” section should include—as examples—diversity, freedom of expression, shared governance, stewardship.
- Strategic direction statements must be able to stand on their own and must be written in plain language everyone can understand.

Discussion about fiscal prudence and nimble and effective governance. Points of discussion included:

- Importance of procedures to make difficult decisions, determine achievable goals, and governance structures that will allow us to achieve those goals.
- Responsibility of the Board to make sure Oberlin College is financially sustainable.
- Discussion of language for recommendation about governance.
- Request for Mike Frandsen to repeat the exercise about finances he led at the July 1 meeting in September.

Good to focus on points in the document that are strategic. Currently, it is a good piece about what Oberlin believes. Think about 5 things that will be different as a result of the plan being approved and identify potential areas of conflict.

Next meeting is Thursday, September 3, 4:30-9:00 p.m., Oberlin Inn.