

Steering Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 9, 2015, 4:50-6:00 p.m., Mudd Library  
Meeting Summary

**Discussion of Mission Statement**

- Diane Yu introduced the agenda and then moved to discussion of the draft Mission Statement. Several suggested adding ‘residential’ early in the body of the statement and to include domestic in addition to global challenges.
- The first sentence is too generic and should be used to distinguish Oberlin in the higher education landscape.
- General consensus that leadership is too vague and should reference Oberlin the institution and students as leaders.
- Some suggested starting with embracing Oberlin’s history and ordering concepts as
  - Historical Roots
  - Excellence
  - Who we offer this excellence to
  - Leadership
- Concern about addressing excellence and inclusiveness as separate concepts.
- Suggestion offered to state how excellence leads to and is founded on inclusiveness, passion, other student attributes; excellence with a purpose as opposed to just excellence.

**Discussion of draft strategic plan**

- Discussion moved to the draft provided by Carol Christ and edited by staff members.
- Concern that intro and context is overly negative and that Oberlin needs to provide responses to the challenges.
- Strategic directives (later agreed to be called directions) need explanations.
- Students of the Bicentennial group has concerns about edits saying some critical points were lost in the core principles.
- Core principles 2 and 3 should be combined into one and the four that were added either repeat or can be combined into existing core principles. Each group needs a higher level of statement of principles.
- Resources and Sustainability concerned that interactions with Oberlin OH were lost in the edits and need better ways to state core principles 8 and 9.
- Faculty salary increase commitment needs at least re-affirmation if not separate core principle.
- Need to clarify core principle about 10% budget reduction.
- Time lines were questioned and it was agreed that the action plans that will follow the Strategic Plan will address those.
- Funding issues were questioned and Diane Yu suggested that some prioritization of directions may be necessary in the Plan.
- On the revenue front, tuition increase was raised and needs to be addressed. Rather than commit to certain levels of increase, a general statement of ‘restraining growth’ was agreed to.

## **Tasks**

- Marvin, Diane and Kathryn will revise mission statement in five days.
- Groups are to send clean versions of core principles to KS by Sat 10am and KS will return consolidated core principles late Monday.
- Working backwards from May 1 Planning meeting, a draft document (not a draft plan) outlining core principles and directions and contexts needs to be available to community by April 24 with responses by April 29 in order to be considered at May 1 meeting.