

Academic Strategic Plan Progress Report

Activity Summary for November 2015 through January 2016

Table of Contents

Undergraduate Residential Experience	1
Immersion Vanderbilt	1
Co-Curricular Engagement External to the College Halls (CEECH):.....	2
Cross College Teaching.....	3
Trans-Institutional Programs.....	4
Healthcare Solutions.....	5
Education Technologies.....	5

Undergraduate Residential Experience

Immersion Vanderbilt

Meetings and Progress

- **Designing Immersion Vanderbilt:** The Immersion Vanderbilt committee is in the process of finalizing the program outcomes and is further developing the 4-category structure (experiential, creative expression, global and research). Sub-committees are drafting expectations and standards for each of the four buckets, using examples to highlight the many possibilities under the Immersion umbrella.
- **International Immersions:** The FACIE (Faculty Advisory Council on International Education) is developing a set of standards to determine whether a study abroad program is immersive. A report, to be finalized in February 2016, will be based on a national rubric for assessing study abroad opportunities through gains in three categories: 1) skills, 2) knowledge, and 3) attitudes. The committee was divided into three working groups (based on these categories) tasked with providing examples of activities, actions, and measurable outcomes that would evidence substantial gains. The committee will then create a menu of international immersion opportunities that meet these standards for rigor and engagement. An example of an international immersion opportunity experienced by a Blair student that meets each standard is as follows: a Blair student studied German on campus and subsequently traveled abroad to Vienna, during which she worked as an intern in the Vienna opera house. Upon returning to campus, she produced a thesis synthesizing her experiences on campus and abroad.

- **Commons Seminars:** Dean of the Commons Vanessa Beasley and Faculty Head of House Professor Gregory Melchor-Barz (in consultation with the Commons staff and other heads-of-house) developed a proposal for a pilot program to introduce the concept of immersions to first year students through faculty-led Commons “I” seminars. The seminars are designed to provide a foundation of knowledge that will better prepare them for developing their own plans. The committee provided input on the proposal. In the fall of 2016, the curriculum will be developed and the program piloted in the spring of 2017.
- **Program Proposals:** Three Immersion Vanderbilt proposals, put together with the help of more than 60 faculty, students and staff, were posted for feedback from the broader community. The proposals are part of the university's 2017 Quality Enhancement Plan and will serve as a critical piece of the university's reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The proposals are:
 - The Engaged Scholars Certificate Program
 - Design as an Immersive Vanderbilt Experience (DIVE)
 - Intercultural Agility: Developing Intercultural Competence Across Multiple Contexts

News

[Feedback requested on QEP finalist proposals](#)

Next Steps

- The Immersion Vanderbilt website is in development with a draft to be ready for committee review in late March or early April.
- Professor Roger Cone is chairing a subcommittee that will issue a report in February that will offer a road map for immersion experiences in life and physical science laboratories.
- Two town-hall meetings will be held in the spring to present and discuss the finalist QEP proposals. There will be a presentation to VSG regarding the topics; the students will be provided review forms. There will be a presentation to graduate and professional 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

- **Background:** In April 2015, 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. [Four of the group's recommendations were adopted for piloting and are moving forward.](#)
- **Increased faculty engagement:** There has been increased faculty engagement in hallmark residential programs across multiple residencies, including Branscomb and the Towers. For example, Clive Mentzel, the Director of OACs, led a faculty dinner on racial issues across the globe with Branscomb students in attendance. Additionally, in fall 2015, the Towers hosted a “Commons Throwback Event” – where hundreds of students mingled with Faculty Heads of House from the Ingram Commons.

- Co-curricular Fellows Program: Preparation has begun to launch this revitalized program in fall 2016 in order to develop trans-institutional, non-building-based living-learning communities. Specifically, a committee formed by graduate students and professional staff is in the process of preparing a request for student proposals and a marketing campaign to launch in March 2016. The program will engage students to select topics of interest and receive recognition for participating in a series of co-curricular opportunities (lectures, etc.) to advance their knowledge in these areas. This program connects students to resources in each of the undergraduate colleges and around the university.
- Performance Space - The Vanderbilt Performing Arts Community (VPAC) Executive Board has opened one new rehearsal space and has renovated two rehearsal spaces in Carmichael Towers and Branscomb. The performing arts community has grown quickly over the last ten years. The addition of one new space and the refurbishing of two new spaces creates new possibilities for groups and allows more flexibility in scheduling.

News

- [New and renovated rehearsal spaces open in Towers and Branscomb](#)

Next Steps

- Faculty-in-Residence Program: A committee will begin meetings in February to review nominations for the faculty in residence program that will begin in fall 2016. The goal is to bring one to two visiting faculty members from peer institutions to campus to engage with the Vanderbilt community.

Cross College Teaching

Meetings and Progress

- With the support of the Chancellor the **University Courses** program was launched to foster interdisciplinary teaching and learning. Proposals were submitted for courses that leverage "One Vanderbilt" and address "big ideas" or "grand challenges." Proposals for courses that advance multi-cultural understanding were solicited as well. A total of 25 course proposals were submitted. Two committees worked to identify the best proposals. One committee worked on multi-culture courses, chaired by Andre Christie-Mizel and another assessed general university courses, chaired by John Geer. A sub-set of proposals have been recommended to the Chancellor for adoption under the new University Course framework.
- The provost's office has worked closely with the registrar and associate deans to develop the administrative process for offering the courses campus-wide.

News

- [Chancellor launches University Courses trans-institutional initiative; proposals due Dec. 14](#)
- [Committee charged with recommending new University Courses designed to advance diversity, equity and inclusion](#)

Next Steps

- The selection of courses will be announced in mid to late February 2016 and slated to run in either the fall of 2016 or spring 2017.
- A second call will be considered for the 2016-17 school year for 2017-18 course launch.

Trans-Institutional Programs

Meetings and Progress

- TIPS Awards:** The second call for trans-institutional program awards generated 61 pre-proposals in the fall. Of those, 38 were invited to submit full proposals. Two of those were asked to collaborate on their proposals given the similarities, bringing the actual number invited to 37. Of those, 35 chose to submit full proposals. Below is a breakdown of collaborators and primary investigators by school and college. A total of 278 faculty from all schools and colleges were involved in the 35 proposals.

School	PI	Collaborators	Total
Arts & Science	12	63	75
Blair	0	3	3
Engineering	8	55	63
Law	0	4	4
Medicine	11	91	102
Nursing	0	2	2
Owen	0	7	7
Peabody	3	17	20
Divinity	1	1	2
Total	35	243	278

- Chancellor Faculty Fellows:** Fourteen faculty members from across the university have been named to the 2016 class of [Chancellor Faculty Fellows](#). The class comprises highly accomplished, recently tenured faculty from the humanities, social sciences, life and physical sciences, and clinical sciences, as well as business, education and engineering. The faculty members will hold the title of Chancellor Faculty Fellow for two years and will be supported by an unrestricted allocation of \$40,000 a year for two fiscal years beginning July 1. The funds can be used to support innovative research, scholarship and creative expression activities that will further propel the career of the awardee. The Chancellor Faculty Fellows will also meet as a group during the course of their awards to

exchange ideas on teaching and research, building a broader intellectual community that advances trans-institutional scholarship.

News

- [Fourteen faculty members selected as 2016 Chancellor Faculty Fellows](#)

Next Steps

- The TIPs Council and review panels are reviewing the TIPs proposals to determine which should be put forth to the Chancellor, Provost, and Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs for recommendation. Final recommendations will be made in April 2016, with decisions on funding in May.

Healthcare Solutions

Meetings and Progress

- The Academic Strategic Plan is guiding on-going work related to the university-medical center restructuring to ensure collaborations continue to flourish post-transition. A number of faculty and administrators have met to consider new joint degrees, graduate certificates and other educational programs related to the healthcare solutions initiatives that would draw on faculty from multiple schools.

Education Technologies

Meetings and Progress

- **Coursera:** 2 new courses were finalized and slated to launch in January – Case Studies in Personalized Medicine and Understanding the Music Business (. To date, 5 courses are currently offered among a total course portfolio of 16 with 8,397 students enrolled.
- **Self-Serve Studio:** Members of the Vanderbilt community (students, faculty, and staff) are now able to create high quality video content with the Vanderbilt Institute for Digital Learning's Self-Serve Studio. Community members attended an "open house" on January 15 where VIDL provided the necessary training for users to create content. Using the studio, the "Educational Technology Roadshow" was taped and [posted online](#) for viewers to watch.
- **BYOD Response System Working Group:** After evaluating demonstrations from three "bring your own device" classroom response system vendors (Turning Technologies, Poll Everywhere, and Top Hat) in early December, the working group moved forward with a Top Hat pilot involving five faculty members from A&S, Peabody, and Owen. Top Hat received the most favorable feedback from the group after the vendor demos, but only a handful of Vanderbilt faculty had actually used Top Hat in the classroom. The group will meet again in February to discuss instructor experiences with Top Hat, as well as the other two systems, with the goal of recommending a single system for use campus-wide.

News

[VIDL launches new campus studio for producing educational videos](#)

Next Steps

- Future Coursera Law course on International Copyright.
- VIDL will become a CORE (a shared resource center) beginning July 1.
- New series of Innovation Grants and Awards to be announced by VIDL in coming months.
- Openly exploring new online learning platforms.