

Student Input gathered in response to the Draft Strategic Plan

October, 2010 – March 2011

1. Enhance the Transformative Nature of Our Liberal Arts Education

Demand excellence in liberal arts education and in student life to provide transformative experiences for our students.

- ❖ Emphasize standardization in teaching methods of Freshman Studies. The Freshman Studies curriculum would benefit from more female authors.
- ❖ Terms that are less than 10 weeks are too strenuous for both parties involved (i.e., Professors and students). Reassess the duration of winter break and retain longer reading periods
- ❖ Though we want to increase visibility, this should be done via web resources as opposed to print.
- ❖ Increase transparency between the administration, the Board of Trustees, and students.
- ❖ Increase the stake of the Lawrence University Community Council in decisions affecting the entire university.
- ❖ Provide more study abroad options for nontraditional study abroad majors (e.g., music, science, social science, etc.), while also allowing students to use merit aid for off campus studies. Middle East study abroad programs should be explored, along with offering Arabic (the fourth most widely spoken language) as a department and major, or at the very least, a minor.
- ❖ Con students lamented the lack of room in the B.M. program for college courses, particularly in the first year. Workload is especially brutal for conservatory and double-degree students.
- ❖ A full-fledged dance program would be great.

2. Create a Stronger Campus Community

Strengthen the Lawrence community by promoting integration of diverse people and departments across the University, and fostering decision-making processes that are both inclusive and respectful of diverse opinions.

- ❖ There is a divide between the conservatory and the college. However, this could be overcome by offering classes such as ethnomusicology, or having tours of the con for non-conservatory students.
- ❖ Conservatory and College students were strongly opposed to the geography of classes being altered.
- ❖ There is a divide between athletics and the college. Solving this entails getting more students to Alex, integrating coaches in campus affairs.
- ❖ Better transportation to athletic events (in terms of advertisement and # of trips made to the event)
- ❖ Strong support for more intramural options, particularly to get people moving during the winter.
- ❖ Students expressed interest in helping recruit future Lawrentians.
- ❖ Lawrence should sponsor more events intended to raise school spirit. Winter carnival and President's Ball were great; we could use more events like them.
- ❖ Counseling center should be more open, especially to remove stigma.
- ❖ Student health care should be more available and professional.
- ❖ Using several standing committees under LUCC (e.g., Student Welfare, Environmental Responsibility, Committee on Diversity Affairs, and Res. Life committee) to help implement goals within the SP affecting students.

3. Prepare Students for Life after Lawrence

Recognizing that a strong liberal arts education is the best preparation for a rapidly evolving global environment, we must encourage, support, and fund curricular and extra-curricular programs that enhance students' post-Lawrence preparedness.

- ❖ "L.U. Scholars in ___" is an exceptional program, however, it has to expand to other vocations and fields of interest.
- ❖ Expand LU-R1 to other areas.
- ❖ Unanimous desire for a "transitions course" (i.e., a course containing info on renting an apartment, managing practical matters like insurance etc.) – however, not for credit.
- ❖ Interest shown in EXCO courses (i.e., experimental college courses for less than usual credit, taught by students, community members, staff could be explored)
- ❖ More Job Fairs on campus would benefit a greater number of students.
- ❖ Expand Career Center by hiring another internship coordinator. The current coordinator is extremely busy, sometimes so much so that students find it difficult to contact her.
- ❖ Offering more student jobs on campus, especially with greater responsibility, would help students to fund their education while building a stronger, more desirable resume.

4. Invest in and Promote Sustainability

Create a community that fosters informed discussion about environmental sustainability, uses natural resources wisely, and promotes stewardship of the Earth.

- ❖ Increase the educational focus surrounding the topic of sustainability – involving both our on campus as well as our local community.
- ❖ We should employ stringent cost-benefit analyses – both financial and environmental – to implementation of new innovations in this area.

5. Improve Facilities and Technology

Create a physical and technological campus environment that nurtures our community

- ❖ Students would like an additional option for food service (different venue and menu), and another place to use culinary cash. It would be nice to be able use meal swipes for particular menu options in the café. Sack lunches are great!
- ❖ Perhaps the coffeehouse should be reopened; it was a great community center with an unmistakable feel. Lawrence is the poorer for lacking it.
- ❖ Many residence hall heating systems are antiquated. Investing in heating to improve efficiency and allow better control of temperature would make residence halls more comfortable and save more money in the long run.

6. Strengthen our Financial Position

Align our academic aspirations and strategic objectives with long-term fiscal sustainability

- ❖ Students would like more financial transparency, such as seeing how the endowment is being spent. There is uneasiness that we're not using our funds wisely, since tuition is increasing, but visible spending does not appear to go into academics. A popular example is the HDTVs around campus.
- ❖ There is also a feeling that we need better financial security. To that end, student interest has been shown in finding novel ways to help raise funds for Lawrence.