

CAS Strategic Plan Committee – Minutes

June 24, 2015
Noon – 2 p.m.
Lookout Mtn. Room

Wilferth and Santiago provided a summary of the last meeting. No guests/non-committee members attended the meeting; "Questions and Discussion with Non-Committee Members" was, therefore, removed from the agenda.

Discussion of Mission, Vision, Values Statements – There was much discussion of the Vision statement, in particular, as committee members discussed audience, context, purpose for the CAS Strategic Plan. It was generally agreed that a brief statement would be better than the earlier draft language. The revised Vision statement now reads: **"We transform lives through a modern liberal arts and sciences education."** Committee members expressed concerns about "messaging" and reiterated the fact that we would have to be clear about what a "modern liberal arts and sciences education"—i.e., what that means exactly. A draft of the current Vision, Mission, and Values statements follow on page 2 of these minutes, along with a draft of four identified goals. These goals, along with the various statements, are derived from numerous sources: 14 "Open Meetings" with faculty, staff, and students during the Spring '15 semester; initial meetings of the Strategic Plan Committee; numerous sources from the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences; as well as the following.

- The AAC&U's [Statement on 21st Century Liberal Education](#)
- The AAC&U's ["Key Finds from 3013 Survey of Employers"](#) and why a liberal education is so important is today's job economy.
- Council of Colleges of Arts & Sciences' ["Statement on Liberal Education"](#) (PDF)
- Liberal Education America's Promise (LEAP) ["AAC&U's 2015 Centennial Video"](#)
- Cited in the above video: Hart Research Associates' ["Falling Short? College Learning and Career Success Selected Findings from Online Surveys of Employers and College Students"](#) (January 2015) (PDF)

Working groups were asked to begin work on assessment measures for goals and subgoals. Wilferth and Santiago will send a rubric/matrix for this task by Monday of next week. Groups should take initial steps toward completing their rubric/matrix before the next meeting on July 8th.

The meeting concluded at 2:00.

[UTC and College of Arts & Sciences graphics go here]

Strategic Plan – College of Arts and Sciences

"... **arts and sciences** are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling [a person's] life, lifting it from the spheres of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom." – Albert Einstein, 1937

"Education serves democracy best when it prepares us for just the kinds of questions we face now: questions about a wider world, about our own values, and about difficult choices we must make both as human beings and citizens.... The approach to higher learning that best serves individuals, our globally engaged democracy and an innovating economy is **liberal education**." – Association of American Colleges & Universities, Board of Directors, 2002

"Those persons, whom nature has endowed with genius and virtue, should be rendered by liberal education worthy to receive and able to guard the sacred deposit of the rights and liberties of their fellow citizens; and... they should be called to that charge without regard to wealth, birth or other accidental condition or circumstance." – Thomas Jefferson, 1779

"When we ask about the relationship of a liberal education to citizenship, we are asking a question with a long history in the Western philosophical tradition. We are drawing on Socrates' concept of 'the examined life,' on Aristotle's notions of reflective citizenship, and above all on Greek and Roman Stoic notions of an education that is 'liberal' in that **it liberates the mind from bondage of habit and custom, producing people who can function with sensitivity and alertness as citizens of the whole world**." – Martha Nussbaum, *Cultivating Humanity: A Classical Defense of Reform in Liberal Education*, 1998

"This approach to liberal education – already visible on many campuses – erases the artificial distinctions between studies deemed liberal (interpreted to mean that they are not related to job training) and those called practical (which are assumed to be). **A liberal education is a practical education because it develops just those capacities needed by every thinking adult: analytical skills, effective communication, practical intelligence, ethical judgment, and social responsibility**." – *Greater Expectations: A New Vision for Learning as a Nation Goes to College*, AAC&U, 2002

"[O]ne cannot live by equations alone. The need is increasing for workers with greater foreign language skills and an expanded knowledge of economics, history and geography. And who wants a technology-driven economy when those who drive it are not grounded in such fields as ethics?" – Norman Augustine, former Chairman and CEO of the Lockheed Martin Corporation, 2013

The College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) proudly celebrates and acts as a champion for liberal education. Such an approach to education, in fact, has nothing to do with liberal or conservative politics. Rather a liberal education is an approach to teaching and learning that emphasizes a broad and well-rounded course of study in the humanities, the sciences (social, behavioral, and natural), and the arts. It liberates the human mind—*i.e.*, frees it from superstition and ignorance—as it prepares individuals to think critically and creatively, to communicate clearly, and to consider complexity, diversity, and change along our social, cultural, technological, and scientific horizons. In doing so, a liberal education cultivates a sense of social responsibility, strong intellectual and practical skills (*e.g.*, communication, analytical, and problem-solving skills) that cross disciplinary boundaries and fields of study, and the ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.¹

Dedicated to the essential academic pursuits—instruction, research, creative expression, and public service—the College of Arts and Sciences at the UTC pursues excellence in undergraduate and graduate education as its principal mission. The College’s top priority is effective teaching in our major, minor, and graduate programs—programs through which students are educated for enriched lives and successful careers. Through its central role in providing the University’s General Education program, the College pursues a particular commitment to strengthen the intellectual skills of all students while developing their awareness and appreciation of the humanities, the fine arts, and the social, behavioral, and natural sciences.

The College of Arts and Sciences identifies in what follows its strategic plan for 2015-2020. This plan aligns with the Institutional Strategic Plan (ISP); articulates our mission, vision, values, and goals; helps us communicate and advocate for the College of Arts and Sciences on campus and in our community; and identifies priorities, strengths, and opportunities.

MISSION

- to advance cultural and intellectual diversity
- to advance new knowledge—innovation and discovery—through applied research and creative activities
- to advance integrated service and social responsibility
- to provide an environment for intellectual curiosity and a foundation for life-long learning
- to equip students with transferrable skills—critical thinking, communication, and complex problem solving skills—that are needed in a rapidly evolving world and that help students adapt to and succeed in an ever-changing workforce

¹ According to a 2013 survey conducted by Hart Research Associates on behalf of Association of American Colleges and Universities, 74% of employers would recommend a liberal education to college-bound students. A full report

VISION

We transform lives through a modern liberal arts and sciences education.²

VALUES

positive work and learning environment, innovative teaching,
life-long learning, research and creative expression

GOALS

Goal 1: The College of Arts and Sciences leads the university, community, and region in providing all students with an essential 21st Century liberal arts and sciences education.

Goal 2: The College of Arts and Sciences values and promotes human achievement in the social sciences, behavioral sciences, natural sciences, humanities, and fine arts.

Goal 3: The College of Arts and Sciences embraces cultural and intellectual diversity.

Goal 4: The College of Arts and Sciences cultivates new knowledge through research and creative activities that engage students, faculty, and community partners.

² The phrase "liberal arts and sciences education" reflects our commitment to liberal education in the context of a comprehensive College of Arts and Sciences.