

# Our Academic Plan and Vision: Building on Success

Spring Faculty Meeting  
Valparaiso University  
April 2015

# Overall Context

- With the support of President Heckler, we are undertaking a review of our academic plan and vision, particularly as it is summarized in Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan.
- The primary goal of the process is the development of a revised, and potentially radically different, Goal 1.

# Overall Context: First Consideration

- There are some important models that have been proposed for higher education by other universities, organizations, and foundations.
- These models apply for general education, for the curriculum and for co-curricular activities, and for both undergraduate and graduate education.

## Overall Context: Second Consideration

- We must think carefully about student learning outcomes, assessment, general education, student development, and whole-person education.
- The use of data will be important as we continue forward with the discussion.

# Overall Context: Third Consideration

- We need to think about novel modes of instruction and novel audiences.
- In other words, we need to think about instruction in other than face-to-face settings, and about working with students who are not traditional, residential students.

# Overall Context: Fourth Consideration

- We need to consider current and potential majors, minors, and programs.
- How can we strengthen what we are already doing?
- Where can and should we grow?

# Background Materials: The DQP

- The Degree Qualifications Profile, or DQP, comes out of work being done by the Lumina Foundation, which is based in Indianapolis.
- Access the DQP at: <http://degreeprofile.org/read-the-dqp/dqp-cover/>.

# Background Materials: The LEAP Initiative

- Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) is a major initiative from the AAC&U. LEAP is a “national advocacy, campus action, and research initiative that champions the importance of a twenty-first century liberal education.”
- Access information about LEAP and VALUE Rubrics at: <https://www.aacu.org/leap>.

# Background Materials: EAB Presentation

- The EAB, or Education Advisory Board, a higher education consulting group, recently provided a presentation related to the academic curriculum, student affairs, and experiential learning.
- This presentation can be accessed at: <http://www.valpo.edu/provost/2014/05/08/internal-documents/> and then click on Academic Plan Discussion.

# Small Group Discussion: Two (or Three) Questions

- What is your initial reaction to this process, the context, and the resources?
- How would you like to engage with this process? How can we help you to engage in this process?

# Small Group Discussion: Two More Questions

- What, in particular, is exciting about this proposed process and review?
- What, in particular, causes you concern about this proposed process and review?

# Parting Requests

- Please think about successes that you would like to share with respect to our academic enterprise: plan to share them in May
- Please share any resources of which you would like other members of the faculty to be aware
- Please fill out the survey about the status, from your perspective, of Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan

# Parting Questions

- What do we need to be aware of as we proceed with the planning process?
- What might we consider doing that is new?
- What concerns do you have about this planning process?
- What should we all know about each of these different models?