

Academic Vision: Integrative approach to learning both in and out of the classroom that connects fundamental liberal arts mission to Hanover College's long-range goal of becoming one of the premiere liberal arts institutions in the country. Outlines a plan for every aspect of the college from curriculum to community.

Integrated Initiatives:

Marketing Plan: Re-visioning of the mission and core values required the repackaging and repositioning of the college. Campus wide committee worked, in conjunction with a marketing firm, to revamp website, publications and logo.

Physical Environments: Our mission to integrate learning across the campus has required us to redefine and modify physical spaces to make that possible in the residence halls, student gathering places and outdoors.

August Experience: Full implementation of the Vision began with this year's entering first-year class and a nine-day intensive orientation program that introduced students to academic and community expectations of Hanover College and modeled integrated learning. Campus-wide effort including speaking, writing, class discussions, service projects, club and organization activities and a community fair.

Advising: The new advising model outlines a more intentional plan for advising. Workshops for advisors addresses talking with advisees about learning across the curriculum and planning for career and co-curricular involvements. These workshops are a collaborative effort among many departments. Advisors meet with advisees six times in the semester and help them complete a personal plan.

Career Connections Program: These programs encourage students to prepare for possible career paths in a numerous areas (e.g, journalism, mental health, medicine, events planning, etc.) by thoughtfully integrating co-curricular activities and academic study. Since any member of the faculty and/or administration can develop and advise these programs, collaboration is encouraged.

Center for Business Preparation: This intensive program, featuring course work, mentoring, and internships, replaces the Business major (CBP students major in a traditional liberal arts discipline). The Center encourages cooperation between faculty in multiple disciplines, alumni, and outside institutions.

Liberal Arts Degree Requirements (LADRS): This general education curriculum replaces a previous system that was much more discipline-based. Now, students take a series of courses in fundamental areas of knowledge (natural world, society, human nature, great texts, etc.) that cut across disciplines. There are many opportunities for cross-disciplinary team teaching, as well as taking advantage of learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Restructuring Tuition: Tuition was raised significantly, but all additional revenue was returned to scholarships and student financial aid. The goal was to make costs comparable to highly-regarded liberal arts colleges, as well as to give the college more

flexibility in allocating money to students that have the most promise for meeting educational goals.

Issues for Discussion:

Integration of new and old: The intention of the Vision Plan is to build on the fundamental characteristics that have historically defined the college while making sweeping changes in numerous aspects of college life. A fine line has been walked between respecting tradition and instituting significant change.

Collaboration does not mean “no boundaries”: Hanover has continued to maintain most of the traditional organizational and disciplinary distinctions that characterize modern higher education. However, instead of these departments functioning in isolation from one another, the Vision plan has encouraged frequent, serious interactions between constituents.

Importance of communication: Perhaps the one consistent element that has been a part of all of the successful programs initiated under the Vision Plan is adequate communication between constituents of the college that are not used to talking, meeting and planning with each other. The opposite, in regard to the failures, is also true.

Importance of funding: Fund-raising and the careful allocation of resources has been behind each of the initiatives discussed today. At the same time, the institution of the most ambitious aspect of the Vision plan, a “new teaching paradigm” in which every class at Hanover College would feature significant individual interactions between students and faculty, is currently in jeopardy because of the formidable task of raising large amounts of money in the current economic environment.

Advantages of a unified approach: One of the most intriguing aspects of the Hanover Academic Vision Plan is that it sets out to do so many things at once. While this was quite difficult in many ways, it has proven to be an advantage because each individual component has been guided by a single underlying philosophy.