

## Update on the Academic Strategic Plan and request for community feedback

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Dear Saint Louis University community,

Last spring, we kicked off the [planning process](#) for a three-year Academic Strategic Plan (ASP), and hosted over 20 sketch sessions with our partners from Filament to gain insights and ideas from the community. Over 500 members of our community participated in those sessions, which yielded hundreds of ideas about actions the community would like to see us take.

Over the summer, I worked with members of the Steering Committee (a list of whom can be found on [this page](#)), the academic deans, and key leaders from my office on several drafts of the ASP. I have also presented drafts of the plan at two Faculty Senate meetings this fall, focused much of the summer retreat with the deans on the plan, and discussed it with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Finally, I recently presented the current draft of the plan to the Academic and Medical Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, and shared that draft with the Steering Committee for another round of feedback last week.

All of those meetings and rounds of feedback have resulted in the [latest draft](#), which is attached to this email. The Academic Strategic Plan has the following elements that you will see as you review the attached document:

- **A preamble** that speaks to our Catholic, Jesuit identity, and provides background on our institutional priorities, institutional commitments, and the structure and components of the plan.
- Four high-level **Strategic Priorities** that we developed based on the community feedback in the spring, and in numerous discussions with the Steering Committee and deans.
- A number of **Strategic Goals** to help operationalize the commitments under each Priority and whose aims are to be achievable within the 3-year period of the plan.
- **Our mission** is a common thread throughout the Priorities and Goals.

My goal is to have a final version of the Priorities, and initial supporting Goals, published to the Provost's Office website by the end of October. One item that the attached draft does not include is a list of concrete **Strategic Actions** that we will take to accomplish each goal. The feedback from the sketch sessions primarily contained suggested actions the community would like to see included in the plan. In many cases, these actions aligned with the actions generated via other community-led efforts in recent years, such as the work of the Student Well-being Task Force, and initiatives from Faculty Senate committees.

I plan to publish at least a few actions under each goal when the plan is released. These actions will be those that were most prominent in the community feedback, and which align with actions put forth in other community-led efforts. Importantly, not all of the ideas generated in the community feedback sessions were academic-related and/or achievable within three years, and not all will be realized as part of this strategic plan. Please note that we are working with our colleagues in the Libraries to archive and make available the entirety of the community's feedback, so it is visible to all.

When the plan is published, I will announce a process for individuals or groups from the community to submit ideas for additional actions that will help fulfill one or more of the goals. I have assured that funding is available, so these actions can be developed and implemented.

The Academic Strategic Plan was designed to be flexible and adaptable to changes we see both at SLU and more broadly over the next three years. I expect us to add additional goals by working with the leadership in each of your areas, and continuously add actions to accomplish those goals as the next three academic years progress. As you read the goals, it will be obvious that some of the related work has already started.

Between now and when the plan is published, I ask for your feedback regarding the attached draft. A short [Google form](#) is available for all to provide feedback if you choose. The form will be open through Oct. 21, and we will incorporate feedback into the plan before it is published.

As you will see from the plan, there is a lot that I see us accomplishing as a community regarding academics, research, well-being and access. I look forward to working with each of you to make this plan a reality.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.  
Provost