



December 10, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, the Drafting Team Committee, in its work on the new strategic plan, in coordination with the Strategic Planning and Assessment Committee (SPAC), continues to facilitate discussions and community meetings that started in September to develop a new draft mission, as well as values and vision statements (“m/v/v”). From the outset, these discussions have focused on creating a new mission that unifies us in an overarching purpose. Discussions of vision, similarly, center on articulating our collective aspiration as an institution.

The sessions held with faculty, staff, and administration across campus—in regular meetings, special sessions, and campus forums—have yielded positive results. While we are still in the midst of deliberations as a community, I believe the following draft mission statements reflect the current direction and tone:

- *Connected through civil dialogue, we are a community that delivers an education that challenges our perceptions and those of others and embraces the myriad possibilities that reside within each of us.*
- *Purchase College delivers an education that promotes the myriad possibilities of the whole person in a community that challenges perceptions and embraces the unusual.*

While unpolished, and similar in many respects, these versions represent the most recent input from across the campus. We are also at a point where values and vision are taking shape.

Building out from the mission, we will begin in a similar iterative process used for the “m/v/v” phase to develop the main strategic initiatives of the plan. What might these look like? Here are three that could make sense as overall directions:

- *Enable and support the diversity and equity of the community by closing the achievement gaps of students and increasing the diversity of faculty staff and administration*
- *Insure the viability of the community/college with financial processes that adjust to decreased state support and wise use of revenue from the SLC*
- *Recognize members through strengthened traditions of celebration and rewards*

While general, these three are offered only as examples but reflect the focus on community, our diversity plan, and the desire to reward and recognize the work of faculty, students and staff.

Recent discussion of values have centered on their role within the institution and how they define us a community. Over the course of meetings and discussions, it seems clear that we want values to cause decisions to:

- *Advance institutional priorities through shared governance;*
- *Respect individuals' liberties in pursuit of diversity, equity and inclusion;*
- *Consider and promote a sustainable planet;*
- *Engage in civil and respectful dialogue;*
- *Enable emerging ideas that promote alternatives and variance;*
- *Build connections that inspire personal and professional creativity, enquiry and expressiveness;*
- *Celebrate the highest achievements of our community;*
- *Acknowledge and recognize the individual accomplishments of all members of our institution; and, ultimately,*
- *Provoke in each of us the love of learning.*

In addition to a list of adjectives and nouns (e.g. open, respectful, diversity, etc.), our commitment to concretely act according to our values in decision-making seems crucial.

Vision is our most recent undertaking. While early in the process, the ideas revolve most often around setting out a vision that captures our responsibilities as a public institution.

All three pieces—the mission, vision and values—will continue to take shape as discussions of the main initiatives get underway. As in all progressions that develop over time, new ideas will emerge to influence and change word choice, tone, and direction of all the component parts of a new plan. Our goal is to deliver by April an initial draft for continued discussion, with a final draft produced in the summer for consideration in the fall.

For more information or to comment on current drafts, please access the material at:

<https://collaborate.purchase.edu/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Have a great end to the semester and a wonderful holiday break. Thank you for a productive and stimulating fall semester.