

Developing the Lake Forest College Strategic Framework

Faculty and Staff Town Hall Meetings

Fall 2022



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Agenda

- Review the planning group process
- Goals of today's session
- Developing a strategic framework
- Review leadership recommendations
- Discussion questions



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**5 planning groups
(2021-22)**

**Reports and
recommendations**

**Intended to lay a
foundation**

Reviewed by BOT

**Shared with
campus**

Academic

Strategic
Partnerships

Enrollment

Residential

Diversity,
Equity &
Inclusion

Goals



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- Position Lake Forest College for success as a leading, liberal arts institution with a pragmatic, modern approach to education
- Clear road map for the College
- Clear guidance document for setting annual strategic priorities which guide decision-making, activities, investment and planning
 - What do we say "yes" to and what do we say "no" to
- Clear identity and brand
 - Who we are and who we are not
- High degree of alignment, connected to 3 unifying themes
 - Mitigates the effect of pulling levers in the opposite directions
- "Something in it for everyone"
 - Can I see myself and my role at the College reflected in the plan?
 - We can't be all things to all people

Why framework and not a plan?

- Iterative, dynamic, ongoing process
- Assessed annually with specific goals and performance indicators
- Resource needs and capacity are fluid
- Support for the framework
 - Facilities condition assessment
 - Fundraising campaign
- External forces at play
 - Higher education landscape and trends
 - Population, migration, demographics
 - Financial outlook



Unifying themes

Building

Building an inclusive, thriving community

Our commitment to inclusive excellence through diversity remains a priority and one in which we will work hard to do better and to be better. Inclusivity—providing equitable access to opportunities and resources for all members of the community—is foremost in our minds and necessary for strengthening our Forester Family.

Stewarding and promoting

Stewarding and promoting the unique Lake Forest College brand

We offer a rare combination of a rigorous, yet innovative, flexible curriculum paired with an intentional, early, and consistent focus on career preparation so that our students can balance their academic experiences at the College with their aspirations of what they want to be. This is what sets Lake Forest College apart.

Investing

Investing in and securing our future as a leading residential liberal arts campus

Our beautiful campus serves as an intellectual hub and a cultural beacon for the city of Lake Forest and surrounding communities. This lies at the heart of collectively imagining what our campus will look like in the future and how we will get there together. Whatever paths we choose to secure our future, we have put a stake in the ground to retain our prominence as a leader among liberal arts colleges across the country.



Recommendations from the
Strategic Partnerships
Planning Group



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Strategic Partnerships Planning Group

Jackie Slaats	VP for Career Advancement & Athletics (Chair)
Shubhik DebBurman	Disque D. and Carol Gram Deane Professor of Biological Sciences
Kate Jackson	Int. Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Matt Kelley	Associate Dean of Faculty
Jennifer Larsen '07	Director, Center for Chicago Programs
Janet McCracken	Professor of Philosophy
Phil Merlin	Director of Gift Planning
Colleen Monks	Director Gorter Family Career Advancement Center
Molly Noyed	Senior Associate Director of Admissions
Ben Rohde	Senior Associate Director for Pathways and Employer Strategy
Kim Weidner-Feigh	Associate VP of Development
Jessica West	Associate VP for Business & Controller
Geoff Curtis '97	Trustee
David Gorter '80	Trustee
Angelique Richard '85	Trustee

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Strategic Partnerships

Committee Lens:

Academic (education and experiential learning), Career (internships and post-graduate employment), Enrollment (marketing), and Philanthropy (funding)

- *Serving the needs of our diverse student body*

Unique College Strengths: Location, Liberal Arts, Diversity, the CAC Pathway Communities, and our Creative, Caring, and Committed Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni

- *Ability to be strategic and rally around the needs of our students*



Successful Partnerships:

- ✓ Beneficial to both parties (ongoing relationships)
- ✓ Invested Stakeholders/Decision makers
- ✓ Goal/Mission Alignment
- ✓ Supply and Demand
- ✓ Accessibility (geographic and financial)
- ✓ Marketability (prospective and current students, parents, employer partners)
- ✓ Communication (consistent internal and external messaging)
- ✓ Stewardship (confidence and trust)



Strategic Partnerships Priority Recommendations

- ❑ Differentiate and prioritize key “In the Loop” and “In the Forest” partnerships
- ❑ Examine the value of “In the Loop” program as an opportunity for partnership growth and development
- ❑ Develop a Non-Profit Center of Excellence
- ❑ Determine a plan for Partnerships communication and leadership



Discussion Questions:

- These are the main recommendations, but there are many other facets to the report. Are there any aspects of the report you would like clarified?
- How do these recommendations align with the three themes of the next strategic framework?
- What do you see as the highest partnership related priority/need? A lower but important need?
- What is missing or hasn't been considered?





Questions,
Feedback,
or Insights

Deciding on annual strategic priorities

- ❑ Begins in late winter, finalized in spring
 - Implement for the following academic year

- ❑ Facilities condition assessment will play a major role
 - State of academic buildings

- ❑ The work of these committees should be used to facilitate the setting of annual priorities



How might things be different?

- Different way of thinking about the College as a whole
- Promote better alignment and allocation of resources that reflect the values and mission of the College
- We should be prepared for change by using a more active and strategic approach
- We are more prepared for adverse conditions and have the resilience to respond effectively



UPCOMING TOWN HALLS

- **Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the Tarble Room: Student Town Hall**
- **Tuesday, November 15 at 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Tarble Room: Enrollment Planning**
- **Thursday, November 17 at 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. in Lillard 200: Residential Planning**
- **Thursday, November 17 at 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Tarble Room: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

