

Summary of Stakeholder Survey Responses

In the fall semester of 2008, I invited stakeholders to participate in a survey to help me identify strengths and opportunities for the future of our campus. Nearly 300 people responded including faculty and staff, student leaders, alumni, and community members. A summary of those responses is included below.

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1. What are people most proud of regarding the College?

- Academic quality of students and faculty; good teaching
- Investment in buildings, grounds, technology, library
- Sense of community, collegiality, diversity
- Increased success in fundraising, sports

2. What do people value? What is important to us?

- High standards of teaching, learning, intellectual freedom
- A good work environment
- Close relationships and teamwork on campus
- Good reputation and image of the school

3. What are perceived to be the distinctive strengths and assets of the institution?

- Academic reputation: accreditations, national ranking, selectivity
- Positive student-faculty ratio; close contact with faculty
- Supportive campus life, caring staff, residential environment
- Attractive and unique facilities
- Community relationships, volunteer service
- Good educational value
- Proud alumni and fundraising success

4. What are the issues and concerns that people hope will be addressed in the future?

- Maintaining student selectivity, faculty hiring, academic quality
- Resources for pay increases, student access and affordability, teaching load reduction
- Sustainability: reduce paper; increase recycling
- Image of the school, appropriate name, visibility of liberal arts
- Diversity: recruitment and campus philosophy
- Encourage collaboration among divisions; reduce territoriality
- Increase support for graduate education
- Transparent decision making and communication

5. What opportunities should we take advantage of?

- Capitalize on superior student profile by curricular enrichment (Honors, research)
- Expand and strengthen graduate programs
- Increase sustainable practices, become the “environmental campus”
- Engage alumni in student mentoring, internship supervision, recruitment, etc.
- Become more efficient through technology, staff restructuring
- Expand international student recruitment; opportunities for study abroad
- Increase opportunities for interdisciplinary work and faculty research
- Improve the image of the college outside of NY State
- Revitalize the Continuing Education program

6. How would you characterize the institution’s relations with the community and what opportunities do you see for college-community partnerships?

- Overall relationship is good, has improved, but needs to be more integrated
- Increase opportunities for collaboration with K-12 schools, Hartwick, regional organizations
- Expand and publicize internships, research opportunities
- Publicize and coordinate outreach activities, e.g., Center for Social Responsibility, Center for Economic and Community Development
- Use College facilities for increased community activities and outreach
- Real estate, e.g., a downtown shop; student apartments; retirement housing
- More PR efforts with local newspapers; outlets beyond Otsego County

7. What advice do you have for me as the new president?

- Listen to everyone at all levels, get feedback
- Be visible, go to events, drop in on offices
- Articulate a clear institutional identity
- Foster a sense of pride among students and employees
- Encourage collaborative, cross-divisional thinking
- Increase efforts to curtail waste and green the campus
- Provide more opportunities for cultural and social interaction among faculty and staff
- Emphasize and reward teaching and service, not just research