

Hamilton College
Strategic Planning: Preliminary Report. February 2008
Subcommittee on Academic Program

Central Focus:

The Subcommittee on Academic Program is focusing on one main question: over the past decade, Hamilton College has dramatically improved in terms of physical plant and student body; has the Academic Program improved correspondingly?

Approach:

Approximately 80 issues concerning the Academic Program were raised at October 22nd Open Faculty Meeting and the November 27th Faculty Meeting. The Subcommittee has organized those issues into five broader topics:

- 1) The Open Curriculum and the Liberal Arts
- 2) Special Programs (First-year Programs, Senior Programs, Off-campus Programs, Oral Communications, Writing, and Quantitative Literacy).
- 3) Standards and Assessment
- 4) Academic Program and Diversity
- 5) Teaching, Learning, and the Academic Experience

Progress to date:

The Subcommittee is gathering data and advice from several sources. We have met with Steven Yao (Assistant Dean of Faculty for Diversity Initiatives, Gordon Hewitt, (Assistant Dean of Faculty for Institutional Research), Carol Drogus (Associate Dean of Students for Off-Campus Study), and Patrick Reynolds (Associate Dean of Faculty), and the Department Chairs. We have scheduled meetings with the CAP and with Dan Chambliss, Director of the Mellon Assessment Project.

Next steps:

Before the end of March the Subcommittee will have talked with all the relevant constituencies, and we will have gathered the data relevant to our five target topics. In April we will begin to synthesize the material and focus it on our primary issue: over the past decade or so, have improvements in the Academic Program kept pace with improvements in the physical plant and in the student body?

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