

LYNCHBURG COLLEGE  
Strategic Planning Team

Minutes of October 7, 2008, Meeting

**PRESENT:** Co-chairs Steve Bright and Julius Sigler, Ed DeClair, Rita Detwiler, Debbie Driscoll, Leslie Hatfield, Dan Lang, Tim Laurent, Ed Polloway, Joe Turek, and Lisa Womack

Debbie Driscoll began the meeting by informing everyone that the Institutional Effectiveness web page now includes links to the Strategic Planning Team information, including presentation schedule and meeting dates.

**PRESENTATION: Westover Honors Program – Dr. Ed DeClair**

The academic program replaces the general education colloquia for the Westover Honors students (currently 14 courses). The Society of Westover Fellows handles co-curricular programming, newsletter, meetings and events, and mentor program. There are currently 127 students in the program, which is operating with same budget and staff they had for only 50 students.

There is a Freshman Retreat held annually before school starts to introduce the Westover Honors students to each other and new experiences. The students already have friends and are more comfortable in their classes when school starts.

The program offers many benefits to LC including the recruitment of academically gifted students; creating positive impact on baseline SATs and GPAs, retention, and graduation rates; increasing competitiveness for graduate school placement; and increasing job satisfaction for Westover Honors faculty.

Challenges the program faces include the lack of full-time staff or faculty committed to the program, budgetary limitations, and recruitment challenges.

**STRATEGIC GOALS:**

- 4.1 – To Grow to 160 Students:  
This would require recruiting a freshman class of 45-50 students each year, increasing the budget for the freshman retreat, and recruiting five high performing sophomores each year.
- 4.2 – Create Westover Program Faculty:  
Scheduling is already tight within departments. Additional advisors and additional help with thesis supervision would be needed. Need to enhance the identity of the program.
- 4.3 – Westover Space:  
Currently the program has “a room.” Additional space is needed. Dr. DeClair is hoping they can utilize the space on the second floor of Hall Center that will be vacated by Development when new Enrollment House is built.
- 4.4 – Compete Successfully for National Recognitions:  
It will be important to recruit students who will be competitive. Dr. DeClair would like to offer one Study Abroad scholarship per year, 10 full-tuition Westover Honors scholarships per year, and increase the program budget to \$175/student.

**REFLECTION:**

- Consider utilizing donors/endowment from campaign
- Spill over into the campus community by building in the expectation that Westover Honors students would serve as PASS leaders
  - Cannot make this a requirement, but students are encouraged to do this

- Would like to see a requirement that all students attend a minimum number of cultural activities
- Reference made to President's goal of Phi Beta Kappa
- Consider if/how we want to overlap programs such as Westover Honors, Physical Therapy, etc.
- We should offer the full-ride scholarships to be more competitive
- No specific requests received for use of space to be vacated by Development
- Chaplain's Office is in need of additional space

**PRESENTATION: Energy Service Corporations (ESCOs) Proposal – Steve Bright**

2007-08 was the "Year of the Environment" during which time President Garren signed the President's Climate Commitment indicating LC's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and ultimately becoming carbon neutral. As part of this process, LC will partner with an ESCO that will come onto campus, perform a complete assessment of the campus by examining where energy can be used more efficiently and how energy usage can be reduced to save the College money.

Request for Qualifications letters were sent to six carefully-chosen firms: Ameresco, Siemens Building Technologies, Honeywell, Johnson Controls, TAC Energy Solutions and Pepco Energy Services. A committee was formed consisting of a mix of faculty, staff, students and trustees to review the qualifications proposals and interview the six firms.

Following the interviews, the committee narrowed the firms to three – Johnson Controls, Ameresco, and Pepco. These firms will come onto campus and conduct a preliminary energy audit of three buildings – Hobbs, Turner and McWane. Preliminary audits are due October 21<sup>st</sup>. The committee will review the audits and recommend the firm of choice to the Board of Trustees at its upcoming meeting. The selected firm will then conduct a complete energy audit of the facilities and campus and make recommendations to the College on projects that would reduce the College's energy costs and ultimately save the College money. The selected firm will also educate the campus community as part of the process as well as help the College put a plan in place for energy costs savings in future years.

This project is budget neutral – there are no costs at this phase. Once the final firm is selected and expenses start to incur, we will be moving money from one part of the budget to another. Ultimately, the funds we save in energy costs will offset the expenses incurred to conduct the audit and complete the recommended projects. The contract between the selected firm and LC will be "performance guaranteed" so that if the selected firm does not save the College money, they will owe the College.

**REFLECTION:**

- What is in place to handle a potential decrease in enrollment due to changes in the economy?
- Cabinet has started to discuss and identify potential impacts and how to best position ourselves. Other things are also being done such as reforming the T. Brady Saunders Trust and researching the possibility of offering a Physical Therapy program at LC. There is a possibility that we could face problems with student loans.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Tuesday, October 14, 2008 • 11 a.m. • Schewel Hall 231

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Womack

## Value of Honors Program to Lynchburg College

Facilitates recruitment of academically gifted students

Positive impact on baseline SAT

Positive impact on baseline grade point average

Positive impact on graduation rates

Positive impact on retention rates

Positive impact on academic climate

Competitive for Graduate School

Recent Placements: Georgetown, University of Delaware, Duke University, Indiana University, American University, Vanderbilt University, Virginia Tech, East Carolina University, University of North Carolina – Greensboro, College of Charleston, Queens University - Charlotte

Increases job satisfaction for faculty

As indicated by faculty buy-in to program, faculty repeatedly return to program

Highly engaged students on campus

**PASS Leaders:** Arbogast, Blatnik, Cates, Fox, Garcia, Glover, Green, Heon, Jewell, Nilsen, Peters, Ritter, Stern, Taylor, Weinkopff (15/35)

**Connection Leaders:** Fox, Green, Jewell, Muhlbaier, Pillow, Salemno, Taylor, Veazey, Weinkopff, Wilenta, Wolff (11/44)

**Writing Center Tutors:** Beck, Nelson, Hancock, La Plante (4/17)

**Student Ambassadors:** Curet, Meadows, Poole, Wheeler, Hurst (5/29)

**Bonner Leaders:** Milone, Davis, Bell, Lynch, Coultrip, McFarland (6/22)

**Varsity Scholar Athletes:** Kritter, Musselman, Cates, Gibb, Smith, Mader, Nichols, Phelps, Garcia, Miller, Canella, Killilea, Clay, Scott, Logue, Stern, Buskard, Manzo, Poole, Meyer, Cutright, Reid, Nelson, Clark, Harris, Wilenta (20% of all Westovers)

Creates the student profile that we “lift-up” in our marketing and advertising

### Over the Last Four Years

Average HS GPA for Freshman Class: 3.10

Average HS GPA for Honors Fellows: 3.75

Average SAT for Freshman Class: 1033

Average SAT for Honors Fellows: 1251

Average Fall Semester GPA for Freshman Class: 2.73

Average Fall Semester GPA for Honors Fellows: 3.33

Average Retention to Sophomore Status Freshman Class: 72.0%

Average Retention to Sophomore Status Honors Fellows: 87.3%

Average Graduation Rate Non-Westover: 48.5%

Average Graduation Rate Westover: 75.5%

### Current Challenges

No “full-time” personnel committed to Westover Honors Program

- Advising Load for Program Director

- Thesis Supervision Workload

Recruitment Challenges

Budget Limitations – At current enrollment with current budget, Westover has less than \$100.00/student for programming.

**Society of Westover Fellows  
AY 2007-2008 List of Activities**

1. August 21-22, 2007 / Freshman Retreat, Wilderness Adventures at Eagle Landing
2. September 22, 2007 / Freshman Induction Ceremony, Society of Westover Fellows
3. September 24, 2007 / Thesis Meeting and Dinner / Seniors
4. October 9, 2007 / Lecture at Sweet Briar College (Michael Pollan)
5. October 10, 2007 / Society wide meeting (Dessert meeting)
6. October 19, 2007 / Dinner (Chinese Buffet) & Play (Book of Days)
7. November 4, 2007 / Opera (Romeo et Juliette)
8. November 9, 2007 / Dinner (Thai 99) & Renaissance Theater (Best Little Whorehouse in Texas)
9. December 6, 2007 / Holiday Party for Society of Fellows
10. January 30, 2008 / Society wide meeting
11. February 19, 2008 / Society of Fellows Sophomore Dinner
12. February 22, 2008 / Dinner (Chinese Buffet) & Musical (Joseph and the Technicolor Coat)
13. March 26, 2008 / Society wide meeting
14. March 29, 2008 / Field Trip to Natural Bridge
15. April 4, 2008 / Dinner (Depot Grill) & Art Walk (Downtown Lynchburg)
16. April 12, 2008 / Dinner (Chinese Buffet) & Play (Picasso at the Lapine Agile)
17. April 20, 2008 / Opera / La Boheme
18. April 23, 2008 / Society of Fellows Year End Banquet
19. April 30, 2008 / Thesis Meeting and Dinner / Juniors
20. May 9, 2008 / Senior Recognition Ceremony

**Society of Westover Fellows  
AY 2008-2009 List of Activities**

1. August 26, 2008 / Welcome Back Dinner for Early Arrivals, Student Leaders (Olive Garden)
2. August 28-29, 2008 / Freshman Induction Ceremony, Society of Westover Fellows
3. September 29, 2008 / Senior Dinner with Librarians
4. October 4, 2008 / Freshman Induction Ceremony, Society of Westover Fellows
5. October 11, 2008 / Dinner (Chinese Buffet) & Play (The Man Who Came to Dinner)
6. October 27, 2008 / Sophomore Dinner
7. November 6, 2008 / All Society Meeting (Dessert Meeting)

<b>Westover Enrollment: Eight Year Trend</b>								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Enrolled	14	22	35	32	39	37	40	37
Male	1	5	18	11	15	14	18	16
HSGPA		3.75	3.71	3.65	3.77	3.73	3.83	3.82
SAT		1246	1252	1232	1250	1267	1276	1253

<b>Westover SATs/HSGPA Compared to College-Wide SATs/HSGPA</b>		
2003	SAT	HSGPA
Westover Students	1252	3.71
All First-Year Students	1027	3.12
Non-Westover Students	1018	3.09

<b>Westover SATs/HSGPA Compared to College-Wide SATs/HSGPA</b>		
2006	SAT	HSGPA
Westover Students	1267	3.73
All First-Year Students	1032	3.11
Non-Westover Students	1015	3.07

<b>Westover SATs/HSGPA Compared to College-Wide SATs/HSGPA</b>		
2004	SAT	HSGPA
Westover Students	1232	3.65
All First-Year Students	1032	3.08
Non-Westover Students	1021	3.05

<b>Westover SATs/HSGPA Compared to College-Wide SATs/HSGPA</b>		
2007	SAT	HSGPA
Westover Students	1276	3.83
All First-Year Students	1035	3.12
Non-Westover Students	1018	3.07

<b>Westover SATs/HSGPA Compared to College-Wide SATs/HSGPA</b>		
2005	SAT	HSGPA
Westover Students	1250	3.77
All First-Year Students	1031	3.06
Non-Westover Students	1015	3.00

<b>Westover SATs/HSGPA Compared to College-Wide SATs/HSGPA</b>		
2008	SAT	HSGPA
Westover Students	1253	3.82
All First-Year Students	1036	3.12
Non-Westover Students	1019	3.09