

## Committee #1 — Executive Summary

The Strategic Planning Committee #1 (Teaching about the men of Wabash) considered several data sources in its deliberations. The sources included national, regional and state data on high school graduates over the next 10 years. The most compelling conclusions from such data are:

- The percentage of men going on to College will continue to decrease therefore making recruiting more challenging for Wabash as competing colleges seek to balance their enrollments.
- The percentage of students of color in the college going population will be significantly higher, placing more pressure on campus services to accommodate their needs.
- The percentage of low income students will comprise a higher percentage of the college going population placing more pressure on financial aid to enroll classes of similar size and quality.

These are among the highlights in *The Impacts of Demographic Changes on Higher Education* by the College Board which is attached. The Committee also believes that any shifts in total number of high school graduates would have minimal if any impact on the College.

The Committee also created its own data as it surveyed various segments of the Wabash community on what qualities and characteristics should be *most* valued (and present) in the future student body. As you can see in the attached results, there is significant convergence among students, faculty and staff, and alumni in their responses. The Committee at this time believes the future student body should reflect the current composition *with some tweaking*.

Charlie Blaich from the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts appeared before the Committee and shared the initial data from the Wabash National Study. As longitudinal data are compiled and shared, it may have an impact on how we go about shaping the future student body.

During the fall semester the Committee discussed the financial aid ramifications of the projected demographics and the College's desires for its student body. More and more colleges are taking steps to increase the amount of gift aid available as student debt levels exceed the tolerance level of even upper middle class families. Attached is an article which our Committee reviewed. It is one of many that have been in the popular press over the past twelve months.