

Committee #4—Executive Summary

Our committee focused its work on two key areas within the president's charge:

- What characteristics must Wabash men possess if they are to have an impact on the larger world and to what degree is the College instilling those characteristics in its alumni?
- What intellectual and human capital is Wabash able to provide the local Crawfordsville community?

The committee did a “gap analysis” of what our alumni “look” like now and what they should “look” like in 2013 (assuming a five year plan). Per the president's charge we used the mission statement as the guiding principal for the gap analysis. Alumni in 2013 will understand and be able to forge a wide range of personal and professional relationships; will be change-makers; will have real world skills and differentiate themselves from others with their oral and written communications skills; will demonstrate a high level of moral development and ethical decision making; will be morally responsible leaders.

We surveyed the classes of '93, '98, and '03 to better understand what our alumni “look” like now and how our mission resonates in their lives. Charlie Blaich met with our committee to discuss the Wabash National Survey of Liberal Arts Education and to help us craft our survey. We also studied the 2006 advancement alumni survey.

Survey data and anecdotal information suggests “think critically” resonates clearly with our alumni and current students. The remaining elements do not resonate as clearly with alumni. Our survey suggests acting responsibly, leading effectively, and living humanely are important in alumni personal and professional lives; however, their undergraduate experiences did not necessarily enhance their understanding of those things. Our committee believes additional focus group and survey work is a necessary part of the plan's implementation.

Wabash's relationship with the local community is critical for the town's/county's economic development and the College's faculty/staff/student recruiting and retention. These issues transcend our committee and require a high level administrative plan. Our committee did explore some best practices for college/town partnerships and identified Hendrix College, Albion College, and Colgate University as examples for Wabash to study.

Our committee identified ways in which the College can bring intellectual and human capital to bear on Montgomery County and Crawfordsville. We met with local Main Street representatives to better understand their perspective on the relationship with Wabash.

Draft strategies and tactics, the survey and survey results, and community input are attached to this executive summary. The town/gown best practices available upon request.