Suffolk University Strategic Plan
2012-2017

Launch: April 5, 2012
Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chairs

• Danielle Manning, VP for Finance and Treasurer
• Sheila Webber, Professor and Chair Management Department
• Alceste Pappas, Consultant
Strategic Planning Committee Members

• Administration: Walter Caffey – Interim VP, Enrollment Management
  Danielle Manning – VP Finance /Treasurer
  Richard DeCapua – Assoc. Dean Student Affairs

• College of Arts and Sciences: Prof. Melanie Berkmen – Asst. Professor Chemistry & Biochemistry
  Prof. Nir Eisikovits – Asst. Professor Philosophy
  Kris Bursik – Assoc. Dean CAS

• Sawyer Business School: Prof. George Moker – Management & Entrepreneurship
  Prof. Sheila Webber – Prof & Chair Management
  Michael Behnam – Assoc. Dean

• Law School: Prof. Frank Cooper – Law School Faculty
  Prof. Sara Dillon – Law School Faculty
  Chris Gibson – Assoc. Dean

• Law Student Representative: Josh Monahan
• Undergraduate Student Rep: Samienta Pierre-Vil
• Graduate Student Representative: tbn
Strategic Planning Website

www.suffolk.edu/strategicplan
Strategic Planning Imperative

• We are committed to building on the University’s history and traditions by revitalizing its heart and soul as a relevant, student-centered institution of access and opportunity.

• We are committed to maintaining the distinctive identities of the University’s three academic units while simultaneously promoting a deepened sense of the University as a whole. We seek the enhancement of this sense of common purpose not only in the academic units, but also across student and administrative support units. We seek a Suffolk in which the whole is clearly greater than the sum of its parts.

• A rapidly changing and highly competitive external environment presents challenges to all colleges and universities at this time. Suffolk’s historic dependence on student tuition makes these challenges even more salient for us.
Strategic Planning Imperative

• The University needs to assert clearly its distinctive niches in the marketplace and to take advantage of those niches through appropriate academic and support programs. Clear, strong focus and discipline are essential to success in these endeavors.

• The University must clearly identify priorities to allow it to allocate/reallocate resources wisely.

• All decisions at all levels must be informed by data that are perceived to have integrity and that are widely available to the Suffolk community.
Planning Process Principles

• All activities of the University (teaching, research, service, and administrative support) must be included in this planning process.

• While the history of the University must be clearly understood, today’s local as well as global realities must be taken into account.
Planning Process Principles

• The planning process must look at the University from a holistic perspective.

• We all must recognize and embrace the reality that our students are the reason that Suffolk University exists. It is our duty to provide them both leadership and service.

• As an institutional citizen of Boston, Suffolk University must define the role and relationship it wants to continue to evolve with the city while enabling students, faculty, and staff to partake of its many cultural, ethnic, and historic riches.
Planning Process Principles

- Respect for others, the capacity to listen, the ability to voice dissident thought, to be heard but not chastised are among the values that the strategic planning process must embrace.

- All elements of the planning process must be collaborative and transparent.

- The planning process must be completed in a timely fashion and must culminate in concrete actions designed to accomplish identified strategic initiatives/goals.
Overview of the Strategic Plan

• Appointed a Strategic Planning Committee and co-chairs for that Committee.

• Hired a consultant to facilitate the planning process.

• Provided clear charges to both the Planning Committee and to the consultant.
In most companies, strategic planning isn’t about making decisions. It’s about documenting choices that have already been made, often haphazardly. Leading firms are rethinking their approach to strategy development so they can make more, better, and faster decisions.

Stop Making Plans; Start Making Decisions

by Michael C. Mankins and Richard Steele
Continuous, Decision-Oriented Planning

“Once a company as a whole has identified its most important strategic priorities (typically in an annual strategy update),... dialogues spread throughout the year, are set up to reach decisions on as many issues as possible.”
Decision-Focused Strategic Planning

- Separate but integrated decision making and planning
- Focus on a few key themes
- Make strategy development continuous
- Structure strategy reviews to produce real decisions
Beacon Hill Civic Association

BHCA Neighborhood Plan Vision Statement:
Beacon Hill is a good place to live. It is beautiful, sociable, and distinctive. It is a desirable residential neighborhood in downtown Boston. We have friendly shops and restaurants. We can walk to work and have many convenient options for traveling farther. We benefit from the persistent efforts of residents before us who built, preserved, and improved Beacon Hill. We aspire to continue to preserve and improve our neighborhood to ensure it is a community where...

1. Residents enjoy a livable residential neighborhood in the middle of a vibrant city
2. Neighbors know each other and are engaged in their community
3. The mix of residences, businesses, services, institutions, and visitors enhances residential life
4. Families of all ages and financial capacities thrive
5. Historic architecture and character are preserved while new technologies and green living are encouraged
6. Nearby development enhances downtown living

http://www.bhcivic.org/pdf/about/a_plan_for_the_neighborhood.pdf
The Power of SUNY: Strategic Plan 2010 and Beyond

http://issuu.com/generationsuny/docs/powerofsuny?mode=a_p
Possible “Big Ideas” or “Aspirations” for Suffolk University

• Developing and sustaining programs and academic excellence
• Recruiting talented, diverse and global faculty, staff and student body
• Focusing on student success/achievement
• Encouraging interdisciplinary and global teaching and research
More Big Ideas & Aspirations

• Seeking opportunities to unite the university’s schools and college
• Celebrating our location in Boston
• Being a responsible steward of existing resources
• Actively seeking new resources through gifts, grants and contracts