**CAS Vision 2022**

**1. Academic Excellence**

*Building on our traditions of teaching excellence and accessible education, we envision the university will provide a superior educational experience to diverse populations that is characterized by excellent faculty, technological competence and state-of-the science learning environments. Reward structures for excellent teaching are established and achievement of student learning outcomes are assessed and continuously improved.*

**In support of this goal:**

*The College will pursue increased faculty support, resources for teaching, improved faculty compensation and prioritize the attraction and retention of excellent faculty. We will enhance student learning through expanded interdisciplinary teaching and effective assessment.*

**Specifically, our vision includes:**

1. Securing resources to recruit and retain excellent faculty and increasing the ratio of permanent faculty to contingent faculty.
2. Supporting faculty development through a variety of initiatives, including improved conference funding.
3. Establishing metrics for teaching excellence and creating a reward system to recognize excellent teaching.
4. Enhancing opportunities and incentives for interdisciplinary teaching, team-teaching, academic innovation and student-centered learning.
5. Ensuring the rigor of General Education Programs by engaging in discipline-appropriate assessment of student learning outcomes.
6. **Educational Opportunities**

*Understanding that education is a lifelong strategy y for career success, we envision creating educational pathways that recognize the diversity of student and employer needs to flexibly meet career and professional goals.*

**In support of this goal:**

*The College will strongly promote liberal arts education as a catalyst for lifelong learning, intellectual curiosity, ethical behavior, professionalism and career success. We will champion the unique experiences offered through CAS programs to recruit motivated learners.*

**Specifically, our vision includes:**

* 1. Promoting the value of a liberal arts education among our stakeholders by emphasizing a rigorous educational experience, grounded in reading, writing and critical/creative-thinking as a foundation for personal enrichment and career success.
  2. Promoting research opportunities, internships and interdisciplinary learning opportunities as signature CAS experiences, while improving support for these programs.
  3. Communicating with admissions counselors, advisors and other personnel to inform prospective students of the value and quality of CAS programs, while increasing scholarships.
  4. Enhancing recruitment and support for diverse student populations and diversifying educational pathways and course offerings to recognize a full range of student needs. Exploring partnerships with WU Tech to assist these efforts.
  5. Examining our instruction efforts and placement policies in a manner that will help best serve underprepared incoming students.
     1. **Community Connections**

*Washburn's historical mission is community-focused. We envision increasing our university connections to enhance the personal and professional lives of community members. These connections will build intellectual and service capacity to create an economically- and culturally-desirable place to live and work.*

**In support of this goal:**

*The College will encourage and support faculty and student community service experiences and broaden Washburn's imprint on our community through increased recognition and visible partnerships. We will craft an image of college-wide academic excellence that is recognized throughout the region.*

**Specifically, our vision includes:**

* + - 1. Broadening support for WTEs, student-generated learning experiences, internships and community-service opportunities.
      2. Publicizing contributions of the faculty and students to the community, thereby increasing our visibility within and beyond Topeka and Shawnee County.
      3. Increasing partnership opportunities with local K-12 schools, community colleges and WU Tech.
      4. Enhancing coordination with existing community organizations, such as Arts Connect, KHC, and NOTO. Supporting faculty who develop such community partnerships through reassigned time or stipends.
      5. Heightening our presence and participation in community events and increasing the number of events hosted on campus.

1. **Living/Learning/Working Environment**

*We envision providing a physical environment that is welcoming, safe and accessible for students, faculty, staff, visitors and community members. The buildings and classrooms will be well-maintained, adaptive to the diverse needs of the 21st century classroom and learning environment; provide spaces to enhance interactions among students, faculty, staff, visitors and community members, and support superior programs enhancing the lives and success of stakeholders.*

**In support of this goal:**

*The College will promote and develop campus environments and technologies that are centered on innovative instruction, student academic needs and enhancing interactions between students and faculty. We will promote capital improvement and building projects that support the primary institutional mission of teaching and learning.*

**Specifically, our vision includes:**

* 1. Developing innovative learning spaces that support student-centered teaching technologies.

Improving conference spaces and offices.

* 1. Pursuing development of a new and improved space for the Education Department.
  2. Renovating and increasing the number of lab, studio, classroom and student-research spaces.
  3. Providing a safe learning environment by increasing security for buildings and campus spaces through technologies such as video monitoring and ID-based door locks.
  4. Demonstrating a commitment to all students by securing easy access to all learning environments for those with special needs.

1. **Fiscal Stewardship**

*Washburn is recognized for our commitment to high-value, high-quality programs and affordable tuition. We envision a culture of planning which is characterized by disciplined, informed, deliberate and integrated decision making regarding programs, people, operations and investments in the campus.* *Financial and human resources will be effectively utilized.*

**In support of this goal:**

*The College will promote increased transparency, faculty involvement and awareness of fiscal planning. We will appraise decisions and investments based on the quantitative, qualitative and long-term impacts they have on the educational experiences we offer.*

**Specifically, our vision includes:**

1. Improving faculty salaries to create parity with peer institutions.
2. Increasing faculty and staff involvement in fiscal matters to foster a culture of informed problem-solving.
3. Promoting communication and collaboration with the WU Foundation. Building awareness of the link between educational quality, unique student experiences and future alumni giving.
4. Initiating a more aggressive marketing effort that highlights WU-CAS as public, highly­ affordable, and providing superior education in a wide array of fields.
5. Analyzing organizational structure for efficiency and examining operating budgets to reflect actual costs, particularly when enrollments fluctuate.