

Tech Tomorrow 2019 Annual Report

Overview

As a strategic plan, Tech Tomorrow is led by faculty leaders who engage along with more than 50 other work group members and leaders to shape the priorities and actions of the university. In Fall 2018, the plan entered its implementation phase, with work groups developing proposals submitted to the Tech Tomorrow Implementation Steering Committee. The ISC offers feedback on proposals, strives to remove implementation roadblocks, evaluates proposals and schedules prioritization for implementation of proposals.

Accomplishments

The Tech Tomorrow work groups have developed 25 proposals that address priority actions across each of the plan's four goals. Goal 1: Education for Life, 8 proposals; Goal 2: Innovation in All We Do, 7 proposals; Goal 3: Exceptional Stewardship, 6 proposals; Goal 4: Engagement for Impact, 4 proposals.

An initiative that overarches all four goals is the Grand Challenge, an effort with ambitious but achievable goals that harness the capabilities of a campus while inspiring imaginations. Our grand challenge is Rural Reimagined: Accelerating Rural Innovation & Collaboration, which is focused on developing and supporting success throughout rural areas in Tennessee that can be replicated to help rural areas throughout the country and the world.

Proposals

Once proposals are submitted by the workgroups, each proposal is evaluated by the ISC for strategic fit and financial impact. After completion of evaluation, the proposals are categorized into an implementation prioritization schedule (high – take action now, medium – summer 2019 implementation, low – re-evaluation of recommendation). The following details each proposal submitted and its prioritization schedule. At the time of writing, eight proposals have not yet been evaluated by the ISC and as such have not been assigned a prioritization schedule. Evaluation of these proposals is scheduled for April 24th, 2019.

All Proposals Submitted through March 27, 2019

1. "Office of Inclusion and Diversity" (Goal 1)
2. "Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer" (Goal 1)
3. "Establish Reporting Lines to Office of Inclusion and Diversity" (Goal 1)
4. "Admissions Counselor for Diverse Populations" (Goal 1)
5. "Assignment of 3 Graduate Assistants to Admissions for Diverse Populations" (Goal 1)
6. "Strategic Scholarship System for New Students from Diverse Backgrounds" (Goal 1)
7. "Study Abroad Faculty-Led Trips" (Goal 1)
8. "Study Abroad Terra Dotta" (Goal 1)
9. "Collect SWOT Analysis Data" (Goal 2)
10. "Electronically Sent Transcripts" (Goal 3)

11. "Utilization of Additional Packages within DegreeWorks" (Goal 3)
12. "Consistency Among Advisement Model" (Goal 3)
13. "Prioritization of Substitution Forms When a Student Applies for Graduation" (Goal 3)
14. "Department of Communications Creation of Podcast Communication Courses" (Goal 4)
15. "Creation of Discipline-Specific Podcast Focus Courses" (Goal 4)
16. "Expanding Podcast Curriculum with Online Courses" (Goal 4)
17. "Expanding WebTMA Functionality" (Goal 3)
18. "Creation of Facilities Asset Management System" (Goal 3)
19. "ORED & Institutional Research Creation of User-friendly Database" (Goal 2)
20. "ORED & Institutional Research Database Availability – Online Web Portal" (Goal 2)
21. "Directory of Gatekeepers Made Available to Faculty, Staff, and Admin" (Goal 2)
22. "Creation of College of Online Education" (Goal 2)
23. "Responsibility of Dean to Oversee the CITL for College of Online Education" (Goal 2)
24. "Exploration of College of Online Education to Establish Partnerships" (Goal 2)
25. "Partnership Inventory Recommendation" (Goal 4)

High Prioritization – Take Action Now

- Strategic Goal 1 – Education for Life
 1. Study Abroad Faculty-Led Trips - Explore opportunities to bid and develop contracts with educational touring companies to select a partner for faculty to develop more study abroad opportunities (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
- Strategic Goal 2 – Innovation in All We Do
 1. Collect SWOT analysis data from each of the academic colleges (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
- Strategic Goal 3 – Exceptional Stewardship
 1. Transcripts should be sent electronically and securely, especially within TN state schools. These electronically submitted transcripts should populate Banner without being a manual entry. (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 - § Implementation Action: In-progress. eTranscripts will go live in June and fully implemented by year end.
 2. Utilize additional packages within DegreeWorks that will allow advisors to rely more heavily on the software, freeing up those doing audits for students nearing graduation (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 - § Implementation Action: Brandon Johnson will investigate the missing functionality and identify the needs for implementation.
 3. Prioritize student substitution forms when a student is ready to apply for graduation and ensure all communication about the process of graduation, including degree requirements, are handled by the student's advisors (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 - § Implementation Action: Brandon Johnson working to reconfigure workflow to stop form emails being sent to students.
- Strategic Goal 4 – Engagement for Impact
 1. Partnership Inventory Recommendation (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)

Medium Prioritization – Summer Implementation

- Strategic Goal 1 – Education for Life
 1. Create a "Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer", who is responsible for leading the Office of Inclusion and Diversity and promoting an institutional culture that values and supports diversity throughout the campus (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 2. Establish reporting lines to the Office of Inclusion and Diversity for the diverse groups and special populations on campus, including but not limited to the Diversity, Equity, and Access Council, Commission on the Status of Blacks, Commission for the Status of Women, Multicultural Center, etc. (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 3. Add an admissions counselor who is focused specifically on the admission and enrollment efforts for diverse populations in the regional areas of Tennessee (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 4. Assign three Graduate Assistants to the admissions office to support the new admissions counsellor in engaging prospective students across Tennessee, specifically in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Murfreesboro (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 5. Develop and expand a strategic scholarship system for new students from diverse backgrounds, including increased scholarship funding for diverse students from Tennessee and scholarships for groups of international students from a specific set of countries (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
- Strategic Goal 3 – Exceptional Stewardship
 1. The advisement model looks different across colleges and departments. Providing consistency in the advisement may strengthen a student's experience as he/she approaches graduation
 - § Implementation Action: President Oldham, Lee Wray, and Provost Bruce have identified this as a high priority.

Low Prioritization – Re-evaluation of Recommendation

- Strategic Goal 1 – Education for Life
 1. Create an "Office of Inclusion and Diversity" charged with developing, executing and monitoring strategic efforts around diversity, inclusion, and equity for students, faculty, and staff, specifically with regard to recruitment, admissions, and enrollment (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 2. Study Abroad Terra Dotta - Purchase Terra Dotta software to assist with the administration of the Study Abroad program at Tennessee Tech (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
- Strategic Goal 4 – Engagement for Impact
 1. Engage the Department of Communications to create a series of courses on the foundations of podcast communications, including theoretical/pedagogical communication underpinnings that would apply across disciplines (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 - § Implementation Action: Possibly charge Working Group/Department of Communication with developing these programs outside of ISC.
 2. Create discipline-specific podcast focus courses through a collaboration with the Department of Communication and academic colleges and departments (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)

- § Refocus this recommendation, identify outcomes, ownership and distribution, etc.
- 3. Expand the podcast curriculum by offering courses online (for businesses learning how to expand marketing efforts), undergraduate minor programming, and graduate certificate programming (NO TIMING RESTRICTIONS)
 - § Refocus this recommendation, identify outcomes, ownership and distribution, etc.

No Prioritization – New proposals not yet evaluated

1. "Expanding WebTMA Functionality" (Goal 3)
2. "Creation of Facilities Asset Management System" (Goal 3)
3. "ORED & Institutional Research Creation of User-friendly Database" (Goal 2)
4. "ORED & Institutional Research Database Availability – Online Web Portal" (Goal 2)
5. "Directory of Gatekeepers Made Available to Faculty, Staff, and Admin" (Goal 2)
6. "Creation of College of Online Education" (Goal 2)
7. "Responsibility of Dean to Oversee the CITL for College of Online Education" (Goal 2)
8. "Exploration of College of Online Education to Establish Partnerships" (Goal 2)

Tech Tomorrow Team

Implementation Steering Committee.

Members:

Phil	Oldham	President
Michael Aikens		Tech Tomorrow Director
Adam	Dalm	Huron Consulting Group
Karen	Lykins	Chief Communication Officer
Lee	Wray	Chief of Staff
Lori	Bruce	Provost
Brandon Johnson		V.P. Enrollment Management and Career Placement
Claire	Stinson	V.P. Finance and Planning
Tom	Payne	Dean, College of Business
Lisa	Zagumny	Dean, College of Education
Jeff	Boles	Chairperson, Chemistry
Christy	Killman	Chairperson, Department of Exercise Science

Strategic Goal 1 - Education for Life Workgroup

Initial Priority: Incorporate multiple experiential learning opportunities in all undergraduate programs.

Members:

Ed	Lisic	Professor – Chemistry (chair)
Tammy	Boles	Assistant Professor – Environmental Studies Undergraduate
Julie	Baker	Associate Dean – College of Education
Leveda	Dexter	Assistant Athletic Director – Athletic Academic Counseling
Judy	Riggsbee	Director – Admissions
Sally	Pardue	Associate Professor – Mechanical Engineering
Harry	Ingle	Director – College of Engineering
Leslie	Crickenberger	Associate Vice President – Human Resources
Brian	Leckie	Associate Professor – Agriculture
Phillip	Baker	Community Member
Dan	Combs	Professor – Biology

Strategic Goal 2 - Innovation in All We Do Workgroup

Initial Priority: Every college will develop and implement technologically infused programs.

Members:

Jason	Beach	Associate Professor – Curriculum and Instruction (chair)
Jerry	Gannod	Chairperson – Computer Science
Yvette	Clark	Executive Director – ITS Administration
Alma	Hales	Assistant Professor – Economics Finance and Marketing
Richard	Pirkle	Instructor – Biology
Stephen	Canfield	Professor – Mechanical Engineering
Dennis	Fennwald	Associate Professor – Agriculture
Allen	Mullis	Executive Director – New Student & Family Programs
Jeremy	Blair	Associate Professor – Art, Craft, & Design
Thomas	Heard	Associate Director – Human Resources
Bill	Curran	Community Member

Strategic Goal 3 - Exceptional Stewardship Workgroup

Initial Priority: Improve efficiency and effectiveness of operational/administrative processes and procedures.

Members:

Ann	Davis	Associate Professor – Accounting (chair)
Jeremy	Wendt	Chairperson – Curriculum and Instruction
Steven	Frye	Director – Interdisciplinary Studies
Kelly	Chambers	Assistant Director – Advancement
Lisa	Maas	Director – ITS Enterprise Application Systems
Sharon	Holderman	Associate Professor – Library Operating
Kerri	Demeri	Director – Director of Auxiliaries
Susan	Piras	Associate Professor – Nursing Instruction
Emily	Wheeler	Associate Vice President – Business Office
Indu	Upadhyaya	Assistant Professor – Restricted Agriculture and Human Ecology
Jeff	Roberts	Chairperson - History
Ottis	Phillips	Community Member

Strategic Goal 4 - Engagement for Impact Workgroup

Initial Priority: Modernize, adapt, and create academic programs, continuing education certificates, and training activities responsive to impactful engagement.

Members:

Bedelia	Russell	Associate Professor – Nursing Instruction (chair)
Brandon	Boyd	Director – Advancement
(Cynthia) Shelley	Brown	Instructor – Sociology and Political Science
Matt	Smith	Professor – Curriculum and Instruction
Dennis	Tennant	Director – College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Bobbie	Maynard	Executive Director – Communications & Marketing
(Jonathan) Robby	Sanders	Associate Professor – Chemical Engineering
Samantha	Hutson	Lecturer – Human Ecology
Simone	McKelvey	Director – Advisement & Retention Services
Lillian	Hartgrove	Community Member
Chester	Goad	Director – Disability Services