

Strategic Directions 2020

Campus Conversations – Institute for Women’s Leadership

November 11, 2014

Murray Hall 156

President Hinton provided a brief overview of the Strategic Directions 2020 planning process and asked IWL staff members to consider the following questions:

It is 2020. What distinguishes CSB from other institutions and our competitors? What do you see as strengths and opportunities for CSB? What are your hopes and aspirations for CSB?

Summary Responses:

- **Distinguishing Characteristics:**

- Women leading in the workforce, not just getting a job. Women who lead organizations.
- Accessibility to administrators and administration.
- Personal relationships and contacts.
- An environment where all are welcome.
- Tremendous inclusivity and choice in club offerings. There is a place for everyone.
- There are many opportunities for mentorship and making connections – connections that help students identify a direction.
- This is a very strong community. There is a focus here beyond the self. Women helping women to grow as people.
- CSB empowers students. Connections like the alumnae network empower us.
- We are globally engaged. Students here are encouraged to step outside of their comfort zone and the familiarity of their world.
 - Challenge: Graduates should be more globally aware, with a base of knowledge and understanding about major global issues.
 - Internships and other experiences could be woven into all study abroad programs.
 - In addition, CSB should improve reintegration for students returning from international study experiences to insure that lessons learned there are passed on and carried on.
- Challenge: We need to be able to live outside of our CSB/SJU bubble. We shouldn’t become insular. We should consider hosting more conferences or events on campus that bring in people and perspectives from across the country and across the world.
- Undergraduate research opportunities with faculty.

- **Strengths and Opportunities:**

- First-Year Seminar is a strength. It helps students develop important writing and research skills – though it could be improved by helping students improve their broad communication skills.
- Internships and other experiential learning opportunities are key strengths. More internships should be paid (which would make them both more accessible and more viable for more students).
- The Gender requirement is a strength. “It opened my eyes about feminism and women’s empowerment.”

- Challenge: Gender flagged courses are not consistent in terms of learning experiences or expected outcomes. Also, there should be more male voices in gender course, particularly male faculty voices.
 - Challenge: Respect of women by SJU students has declined. Women need to be more confident and more empowered to address respect issues. SJU students need to be both more respectful and more engaged in gender issues. The coordinate relationship between CSB and SJU requires a robust conversation about gender.
 - Opportunity: We should focus on women and science and women as scientists.
 - Opportunity: We need to reach students who don't want to be reached or are not engaged. Too many events attract the same people over and over. We need to reach new people and more people.
- **Hopes and Aspirations:**
 - "My colleagues and classmates are financially stable, healthy, and independent."
 - Our graduates find their niche and excel at what they do. They find a point of focus.
 - Our graduates know their worth and demonstrate it to themselves and to the world. They find their passion and become leaders.
 - Bennies leading their own lives – they don't settle. Their choices are intentional and their own.
 - More diversity on campus.
 - Our students and graduates experience both the flexibility and the opportunity to find what they are great at.
 - More internships and experiential learning opportunities.
 - More cross-disciplinary course opportunities, particularly once we have chosen a major (more opportunities to take courses outside of our major).
 - A larger student voice with department chairs at the end of the year – an opportunity to share feedback and improve courses.
 - Greater focus on programming and support for LGBT students in residence halls.
 - Better balance in our daily lives. We are incredibly busy all of the time and need to manage life expectations and time better.