

Two Town Halls were held by Provost Trevisan on May 22nd and May 27, 2014 to update faculty and staff on the strategic planning initiative and to provide opportunity for questions and input. Over seventy-five attended these events and heard a summary of committee work, emerging themes, and next steps in the planning process vital to the College's bright future.

The Provost emphasized the importance of the planning process and the broad campus input being sought in this ongoing endeavor. He acknowledged with deep appreciation the work and time commitment of the large number of faculty and staff representing each division of the College on the four committees: Culture of Excellence, Student Success, Academic Prosperity, and Financial Health. Much work is already underway to address issues identified by the committees, such as an initial multimillion-dollar investment into the information technology infrastructure. We continue to move forward in the development and implementation of a dynamic vision of our future path as an institution.

The agenda included presentations by Scott Nostaja of Excelcor, the consulting firm facilitating the planning process, and by committee Chairs Fred Moshary, Mary Ruth Strzeszewski and Marta Bengoa. A summary of the preliminary committee recommendations was followed by a discussion of themes that emerged across the work of the individual committees:

- Creating living, learning, and working spaces that enable and support student, faculty and staff success
- Promoting and fostering multi-disciplinary and inter-professional collaborations
- Re-imagining the role and structures for advising students
- Defining and contextualizing City College as an emerging comprehensive doctoral institution drawing on its unique historic mission
- Elevating the role and importance of fundraising

The next steps in planning will be to turn the committee work and prioritization over to the Deans, to envision how each School/Division might interpret broad goals within their specific areas, and to work together over the summer months to further develop and articulate the aspirations of the College and how they might be implemented. Vice Presidents and other key constituents will join in the continued work over the summer as well.

Comments from the faculty and staff members attending on both days included the following:

- City College is committed to its historic mission of diversity and inclusion; it is confirmed that it will be fully expressed and supported within the strategic vision. We are an urban institution with a global reach. It was further noted that City is unique within CUNY for our constellation of professional schools.
- While strategic plans express visionary goals, our plan must also include very concrete and urgent infrastructure needs.
- Our doctoral programs bring the College strength. We are well on our way to achieving a high research activity status, and a purposeful strategy for building on our large master-granting programs to increase a diversity of doctoral programs campus-wide might be identified as a way to further grow our distinction.
- The plan must commit to supporting students once they get here, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Advisor and faculty interaction should be encouraged and supported.

The President and Provost are committed to updating the campus community on the progress being made, and there will be more opportunities during the fall semester to participate in the development of the strategic plan.