

VISION 2015:
Building on Excellence
Undergraduate Student Town Hall

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WATERLOO
ENGINEERING

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overview

- why plan?
- plan framework
- aspiration
- key priorities
- consultation
- questions & answers

why plan?

Academic planning allows us to plan for our future in a more systematic way and to measure our accomplishments in an objective manner.

Planning helps the faculty leadership make strategic, well-informed decisions for its future and provides a strong base from which to face new challenges and to capitalize on new opportunities.

Vision 2010 Highlights (2005-2010)

- + 24% professors
- + 31% staff
- + 54% graduate enrolment
- 4% undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio
- + 82% research funding
- + 56% space holdings (including construction)
- + 2 programs at the UW-UAE campus

plan framework

The planning process should afford the faculty an opportunity to examine all facets of its operation in an open and objective manner.

While the plans resulting will guide the faculty in its quest to achieve its aspirations, the process should energize us and give us all hope for an even brighter future.

how long to
plan for? → 4 years
2011-2015

how many
plans? → 1 overall faculty plan
1 plan per academic unit

who will
participate? → Engineering Planning Committee
with broad consultation
(students, faculty and staff)

planning stages

1. Self study [Nov/10-Feb/11]
2. Draft plan [Feb-May/11]
3. External assessors [July-Aug/11 for units]
[Oct/11 for the faculty]
4. Final plan [Nov-Dec/11]
5. Implementation & annual review

aspiration

Waterloo Engineering aspires to be a **truly world-class school of engineering.**

The programs we offer, the students we graduate, and the solutions we develop will be sought after by outstanding students, employers, employees and partners.

Waterloo Engineering will be:

- the top choice of outstanding high school students from Canada and abroad who are seeking a challenging academic program of the highest quality, fully integrated with real-world experience
- in demand by excellent students, both domestic and international, seeking high-calibre graduate education and by working engineers seeking professional upgrading opportunities

- the destination of choice among Canadian and global employers seeking co-op students or graduates at all levels for full-time employment
- sought after by outstanding engineering faculty looking for a rewarding career that supports teaching and research excellence
- the top choice of industry, government and community partners seeking to connect with outstanding researchers, students, entrepreneurs and innovators to solve local, national and global challenges

key priorities

- Attracting, engaging and retaining outstanding people: undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and staff
- Committing to excellence in academic programs and services
- Undertaking high-impact research, both within and across the disciplines and spanning the theoretical to the practical

key priorities

- Building connections and promoting collaboration
- Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship
- Providing the world-class facilities required to support excellence in education and research

consultation

Input from community members is key to the development of plan objectives and strategies.

Feedback mechanisms will include:
representative membership on planning committees, surveys, focus groups, etc.

undergraduate representation

- Student participation on committees
 - Departments' undergraduate committees
 - Faculty-level planning committees
 - Existing committees with student members
- Student surveys and focus groups
- Group and individual student submissions

questions & answers

Vision 2015 Student Engagement

- How will students be involved in the planning process at the faculty and department levels?
- Will students be given the chance to comment on the draft report?

questions & answers

Teaching

- How will this plan address the need for improvement in teaching quality?
- How will this plan address the need to increase TA quality?
- If a professor wants to buy out his teaching time with research dollars, will that be accepted?

questions & answers

Co-op

- The decreasing volume of jobs is troubling
- Are there plans to improve the employment rates of first-year engineering students?
- Where do co-op fees go and why are they rising so much each year?
 - How is such a high co-op fee justified for all disciplines when there is a huge difference in the number of jobs (e.g. Electrical vs. Chemical)?

questions & answers

Tuition

- What will be done to reduce tuition costs/prevent an unconventional increase in tuition fees/keep tuition at a reasonable amount?
- How high is tuition expected to be in 10 years, and what is the breakdown of costs?

questions & answers

Space

- How will you address the inconvenient and tight scheduling caused by limited classroom space?
- What will be done about the shortage of study space and work space on campus, particularly within the engineering buildings?
 - Includes computer labs, other study space, and space to work on design projects involving large prototypes

questions & answers

Flexibility and Balance

- What is being done to allow students to take a broader range of complementary education courses (aside from WatPD)?
- What will Vision 2015 do to make engineering a more well-rounded program with better school-life balance?
- Can you make the engineering schedule more flexible?

questions & answers

Student Relations

- How will you improve undergraduate student relations with the plan?
- What plans do you have to increase awareness of the general feelings, attitudes, and moods of the undergraduate student body among senior staff and administrators?

questions & answers

Reputation and Marketing

- Does the university have any ambition to improve their position on international rankings?
- Does the university plan on marketing the school better in other countries?
- The university has been heavily focusing on re-branding itself lately. Where does engineering see itself in the overall re-branding scheme?

questions & answers

Social & Environmental Responsibility

- How will Vision 2015 address the evident need for engineering students to learn total costs of engineering projects and their social and environmental implications?
- The university has taken no significant actions toward sustainability on campus. What does engineering see as its role in terms of making itself and the rest of the university sustainable?

questions & answers

Entrepreneurship

- What would Vision 2015 do to extend Waterloo's history of entrepreneurship to fields significantly outside the internet and mobile space?

questions & answers

Student Recruitment

- What are the Faculty's plans in terms of international student recruitment?
- Is it possible to interview high school students before accepting them?

questions & answers

WEEF

- WEEF indicates it currently has principal of \$9,200,000 and spends \$60,000/term.

How is that money spent effectively to "benefit undergraduate study," which is why WEEF was founded, and when could we see a change in very basic things such as our lab computers and equipment?

questions & answers

Additional questions from the floor

Webcast audience can send questions to
engineering.planning@uwaterloo.ca

find out more

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