

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The last revision to the College's campus plan was in 2006. The world has changed since then, as has the US, Ohio, and the College as well.

A number of the College's senior administrators are new to the institution and planning assumptions and priorities are evolving to reflect the current environment, both regionally and nationally.

Since 2006, the number of public 4 year institutions in Ohio increased by 11 to 36 universities, while the number of private 4 year institutions decreased by 1, to 69 colleges and universities.

The number of Ohio high school graduates declined by 4% between 2006 and today, and it is expected to further decline by 9% by 2022.

At this time in the College's life, the need to be competitive, and the need to distinguish itself from its peer institutions is critically important.

Attracting students is one priority, but so too is the need to increase student retention. The Scott Center will clearly be an important and effective resource in attraction and retention, but there are still academic, residential, and student life resources that need attention.

What are the distinguishing characteristics that make the College of Wooster a special and distinctive place? What should the College do to enhance and proclaim its advantages?

Independent Study, long a part of the College's culture, is no longer distinctive, although the way Wooster integrates it into the curriculum is.

The recommendations that follow have been selected to help advance the College's mission and vision and, in so doing, improve facilities and grounds, improve the academic environment and student life, and have a positive impact on student attraction and retention.

