Dear Members of the Columbia College Chicago Staff,

A few of you have asked for brief descriptions of the strategic plan implementation committees. Please use these descriptions to help you in considering self-nomination.

- **Universal Learning Outcomes Committee**: This committee will focus on the competencies, skills, knowledge, proficiencies, literacies, and fluencies we hope all students, regardless of major, will take away from a Columbia College Chicago education. Developing clear learning outcomes is a way of ensuring that we offer our students the best possible education, distinguishing ourselves from other institutions (while maintaining a keen awareness of the best practices in higher education), and developing a mechanism by which we can assess ourselves and hold ourselves accountable for educational excellence.

- **Columbia Core Committee**: The work of this committee will follow from that of the Universal Learning Outcomes Committee. The Columbia Core Committee will develop a proposed array of core courses that reflect the Universal Learning Outcomes. It will preserve our tradition of a liberal arts and sciences core, but it also will expand the concept of the core to the wider college, recognizing that there are other areas of a general education suitable to Columbia College Chicago that are equal in value to liberal arts and sciences and to which all our students need access.

- **Integrated First-Year Experience Committee**: This committee will build upon the work we are doing this fall in changing the nature of the required first-year course. It will work with the “Big Chicago” faculty in assessing the effectiveness of those courses and of the related New Student Commons, Base Camp, and Explore. Based upon that assessment, this committee will propose an integrated first-year experience for the future.

- **Registration and New Student Orientation Committee**: There are many people at Columbia College Chicago who work with great commitment and dedication with our newly admitted students to help them navigate orientation, registration, financial issues, etc. However, we are not nearly coordinated enough in these activities. This committee will propose an integrated model for working with newly admitted students.

- **Community Engagement Committee**: This committee will have two major tasks this year. First, it will conduct an exhaustive college-wide study of the full range of community engagement activities we now have in place in various courses, departments, centers, and other areas. Second, it will develop a working definition of community engagement to guide us in our practices in the future.

I hope this is helpful.

Sincerely,

Stanley T. Wearden, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President and Provost
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