



Strategic Plan Progress Report

2006-2007

Dalton State College has completed the first year of its 2006-2010 Strategic Plan. During 2006-2007, the Strategic Planning Committee adopted 39 goals for implementation. Of those, 13 were met. The following summarizes progress reports of goals achieved during 2006-2007.

Goal 5: Review departmental missions to determine if they are in line with the institutional mission and whether they focus on student success.

- Each department reviewed and revised its mission statement, ensuring that all departmental goals were in line with the College's overarching institutional mission.

Goal 6: Explore the possibility of offering a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts.

- Proposals for a Liberal Arts baccalaureate degree formulated during the 2005-2006 academic year were narrowed down to a degree that concentrated on an interdisciplinary degree in international studies. A list of proposed courses was compiled.
- The project was eclipsed, however, by the perception of more pressing needs for baccalaureate degrees in other areas.
- The project should be revived in order to engage the Humanities and Social Sciences, which currently have no baccalaureate programs, more directly in the upper-level component of the College's mission. The proposed degree continues to hold significant promise for broadening the College's range of upper-level offerings.

Goal 10: Develop additional Bachelor's degrees.

- Two new degree proposals and one new major in an existing degree were successfully prepared and submitted for approval by the Board of Regents.
- New baccalaureate degrees were authorized in biology and mathematics, each with or without secondary education certification, and a new major in accounting was approved for the Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

- The schools of Business Administration and Natural Sciences and Mathematics worked with exceptional dispatch and effectiveness in preparing proposals and securing approval so that the first new courses in these programs could be offered in the 2007-2008 academic year.

Goal 11: Create more hybrid and online courses to provide optimum access to a variety of student populations.

- The offering of 52 online or hybrid courses in 2006-2007 surpassed the goal of 25 such course offerings for this period.
- Expanded online/hybrid offerings will extend students' access to the college regardless of geographic or travel limitations.

Goal 13: Achieve and maintain specialized accreditation where appropriate.

- The Business Administration School submitted its first annual report to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. It was accepted by the Initial Accreditation Committee.
- The School of Education has two accrediting agencies, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and the Professional Standards Committee, which conducted reviews for developmental program accreditation. The PSC made several recommendations which are reflected in the Board of Examiners' Report. The division will develop a plan to meet recommendations prior to the next NCATE/PSC visit. The division submitted a Rejoinder on August 29, 2007 for ESOL Standard II, which was the only "unmet" standard. The Review Panel is expected to meet in November, 2007 to render a final decision regarding the submitted Rejoinder.
- The Nursing School will maintain full approval status from the Georgia Board of Nursing and full accreditation status from the NLNAC, as well as successfully achieve re-approval from the Georgia Board of Nursing in 2008 and re-accreditation from the NLNAC in 2010.
- The School of Technology continues to maintain appropriate accreditations.
- This was a successful year for our accreditation efforts.

Goal 18: Develop a major fund-raising campaign.

- A positive campaign feasibility study recommended the implementation of a comprehensive fundraising campaign and demonstrating significant financial support for the campaign's objectives.
- The campaign feasibility study and the subsequent organization and success of the campaign ensured that the College would be in a position to rely on a stronger and more responsive Foundation.

Goal 21: Identify courses for programs that will work with library staff to incorporate information literacy instruction into their programs.

The Library Director worked with the Coordinator for First Year Experience through-out the year. The Information Literacy chapter was written for the FYES textbook. Three pilot sections of FYES 1000 were held during the summer semester and the librarians taught the Information Literacy portions of those classes. This will continue to be an on-going goal for 2007-2008.

Goal 22: Measure effect of information literacy on retention rates.

- There were not enough pilot courses to measure in 2006-2007. This will be continued in 2007-2008.

Goal 23: Expand the collaborative relationship between the Library and OCIS to support a student-focused Learning Commons.

- The Learning Commons was opened in fall 2007 in the former conference room. Roberts Library added a part-time Librarian to staff the Commons in the evenings.
- OCIS provided printer materials, software, computer cables, and technical support.
- Student response was overwhelmingly positive.

Goal 24: Increase the use of DSConnect in all non-Vista courses.

- Enrollment Services and OSFA staff worked with OCIS to improve design and add functionality to DSConnect's admissions and financial aid menus. Students are now able to access admissions and financial information remotely, 24/7.

Goal 27: Implement automated processes and services to improve administrative effectiveness.

- OCIS personnel accepted requests from faculty, staff, and students for needed services and process automations. Achievement of this goal has been essential to OCIS being able to improve administrative effectiveness.
- 90% of graduating students reported satisfaction with OCIS services, up 3.3% since the last poll.

Goal 28: Conduct a comprehensible review of the Core Curriculum content and delivery methods, especially hybrid formats.

- Key performance indicators include the establishment of a task force to conduct a comprehensive review, a completed task force report with recommendations, and evidence of implementation of report recommendation.
- The goal was not achieved. Action was postponed until the 2007-2008 academic year because of uncertainty regarding pending USG action regarding the Core Curriculum.

Goal 33: Update campus heating/air conditioning systems.

- The Liberal Arts building boiler and controls were replaced to enhance the HVAC system.
- The Technical building, along with other localized areas on campus, is slated to be improved in FY 2008.

Goal 39: Develop an institutional plan for improving retention and graduation rates.

- As part of its response to the University System's Retention, Progression, and Graduation (PRG) Initiative, the IR and President Offices produced an *Annual Retention & Graduation Rate Improvement Plan*.

Goal 41: Identify courses with high withdrawal and/or failure rates and develop intervention strategies for these.

- The Academic and Career Enhancement (ACE) Center and the Academic Advising Center collaborated to create a formula with which to identify "killer" courses. ENGL 0098, ENGL 1101, READ 0098, BIOL 1107, MATH 0096, MATH 0098, and MATH 1111 were identified as such. Curative strategies were devised and applied, and pass rates improved in 5 of those classes but declined slightly in ENGL 0098 and ENGL 1101.
- The strategies devised to locate and fix "killer" classes are recommended to be applied further and refined in 2007-2008.

Goal 42: Assess academic advising in order to create a system that more effectively meets students' needs.

- The Faculty Evaluation Committee undertook developing an instrument for evaluating the performance of faculty advisors, though this document currently remains only a draft. This document should be completed in order to accurately gauge advising performance.
- Graduating student surveys revealed a 6% increase in students who rate the quality of their academic advising as "good" or "excellent," an improvement from 67% in 2006 to 73%.