

## Kicking Off Our Academic Strategic Planning Process

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Dear Saint Louis University community,

Today, I am announcing the start of our Academic Strategic Planning process. Our goal with this process is to create an academic strategic plan that will guide our work for the next 3 academic years, starting with AY22-23.

In designing this process, I want to make it as inclusive as possible for all stakeholders across our St. Louis and Madrid campuses. Everyone is invited to participate in the sessions we are holding this semester, even if you are not affiliated with Academic Affairs or in one of our schools/colleges. This process is open to all faculty, staff, students and administrators, and will begin in mid-February.

We have contracted with [Filament](#), a local consulting firm that specializes in strategic planning and helping organizations think differently from their normal day-to-day work. The sessions they design and run are very hands-on and collaborative, helping organizations like Saint Louis University develop new strategies and plans for the future. They even employ their own artist and visual recorder, who helps visualize the discussions and decisions made during the sessions. Normally, they host clients at their collaboration space, but they will be bringing that format to our campus to make it easier for everyone to participate.

We have already begun some planning work with a small working group from my office, the divisions that report to me (ERM, DICE, Student Development, and OVPR), a dean representative, and Faculty Senate representatives. This working group will be responsible for driving the day-to-day work of the strategic plan, collaborating closely with Filament to schedule and run the sessions in March and April. They will regularly report our progress to a Steering Committee consisting of the VPs, deans, and faculty, staff and student representatives. We will populate the faculty reps through the school/college faculty councils, the staff reps through SAC, and student reps from SGA and GSA.

**If you are interested in signing up to attend one of the sessions, please fill out this [registration form](#) as soon as possible so we can begin to plan for the first sessions.** We have also built a [website](#) that we will regularly update with our progress, along with messages to the community. Please check that site if you would like more information about how the process will work and the end products we can anticipate coming out of this process.

Our goal is to complete the community feedback period before the end of the spring semester, then prepare the framework of the strategic plan by the end of June, and start the implementation phase at the beginning of the next academic year. The goal for the process Filament will lead is one of communal discernment, helping us define the academic priorities for Saint Louis University, and how we will achieve them, in the coming years. I am excited about starting this process and look forward to each of you participating in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.  
Provost