

Planning Actions - Ranked
Sorted by Mean
(N=14)

	Rank	Mean	Min Value	Max Value	Standard Deviation	Total Responses
Roundtables (cross-divisional)	1	6.1	1	17	4.9	14
Cabinet Members Area Meetings	2	6.3	2	18	5.2	14
Focus groups (theme-based)	3	6.5	2	14	3.1	14
Community Meetings	4	6.7	1	17	4.5	14
Survey (on and off campus constituencies)	5	6.9	1	19	5.2	14
Academic Summit	6	8.5	1	18	5.8	14
Forums	7	9.4	4	17	4.0	14
Planning walls	8	9.5	2	17	5.2	14
Questionnaires	9	9.7	1	18	5.8	14
Faculty Meeting's Committee of the Whole	10	10.2	3	18	5.0	14
Skidmore Strategic Planning Day (designated for planning ideas/themes)	11	10.4	1	17	5.6	14
Blog (from the President's Office or Subcommittee)	12	10.9	1	19	5.9	14
Town Hall Meetings (off-campus)	13	11.1	7	18	3.8	14
Coffee Hours	14	11.9	3	19	4.8	14
Community Breakfasts	15	12.3	4	19	4.1	14
Presidential Office Hours	16	12.8	4	18	4.3	14
Fireside chats	17	12.9	5	19	4.6	14
Logo (creating one for Strategic Planning)	18	14.4	2	19	6.9	14
T-shirts (for participating in some aspect of Planning)	19	14.6	3	20	5.4	14
Other (please describe your idea)*	20	19	8	20	3.2	14

*Responses to "Other (please describe your idea)"

"Learning Labs" -- Focus groups that incorporate a bank of computers to capture input and a quantitative element

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Please provide any other comments you may have regarding the planning process.

(N=7)

There should be some consideration of the workload involved with these potential steps, weighing ease of completion versus actual value.

Have placed the blog first because I think it's best to launch it at the start of the project. I assume the Strategic Plan will be the main focus of the Academic Summit, especially since it was the focus of the last one. (See story: <http://www.skidmore.edu/news/2013/academicsummit.php>) As a way to launch the blog, I suggest we post a preview of the Academic Summit and the manner in which the Strategic Plan will be addressed, and link to it from our News & Events page. This post is best written in Joshua Woodfork's voice. After the Summit, we should post a summary of highlights (also in Joshua's voice) and link to it both from our News & Events page and from the January issue of Scope Monthly, thereby informing alumni and parents. With the blog thus established, we would work with Joshua in making new posts at least weekly. Whatever we call it, the blog will need to have a distinctive design. The banner for the blog is what I would call the effort's distinctive "word mark". This will serve as a kind of logo, which is why I've listed "logo" second.

Clearly there are many options and I assume we can't do all of them in the timeframe. We might have to select the best from each mode of communication (survey, physically meeting, etc).

From my perspective, I thought the roundtables worked pretty well last time around. Some of the ideas above fit nicely together with the "Skidmore Strategic Planning Day". Perhaps a kickoff breakfast or community meeting with coffee. You could give t-shirts, but its not necessary. It may generate some enthusiasm. At this event have people suggest round table topics for future discussions?

I think it is important to have a broad mix of passive and active avenues for all people of the community to participate

At the end of the day, we need to impress upon the Skidmore community that they have a voice, and we need to do anything and everything in our power to ensure that the members are community not only feel heard, but that they legitimately are heard. It's very easy to disregard a person's idea if it seems difficult, but this is the Strategic Planning Process. We don't necessarily need to have the answer to the difficult problems right now, but if we truly hear the problems and concerns and internalize that the concerns that we are hearing are real, it will make the next 10 years, not easier, but full of life and energy and dedication from those necessary to do the work. As SGA President, there are plenty of times when I tell my constituents that, while their problems are legitimate, I'm not in a position to solve them. These next two years, as well as the ten years that follow, are a time to address those problems we find too large to address in the short term.

In terms of meetings with residents of Saratoga Springs and surrounding communities, I would advise that we not hold an open forum (which, of course, would be open to media coverage). Given issues like our proposed solar array and some folk in town with an axe to grind, some groups could show up in force to "beat us up." I would suggest small focus groups comprising both community leaders and general members of the public.