

## *Strategic Plan Initiative: Defining the Student Leadership Experience at Smith College*

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### ***Program Objective:***

Our objective is to develop a program which defines the student leadership experience at Smith for all leaders regardless of class year or skill level. Recognizing that Smith affords countless opportunities for leadership development for those who seek them out, this program will highlight opportunities for involvement as well as the natural intersections bringing our student leaders together outside of the classroom for learning, growth and personal development.

### ***Learning Outcomes and Ties to College Strategic Plan Initiative:***

As educators, everything we do is intended to assist with the interaction and learning process between students, faculty and staff outside of the classroom. We strongly believe in the educational opportunities available to all students through their involvement in student life, be it through participation in an organization, community service, residence life, student government, an internship, athletics or employment. No matter how involved each student is, the following learning outcomes or student capacities should result from being a part of the student leadership program:

- Identification and understanding of one's own leadership style.
- The development of individual student capacities including critical thinking, moral and ethical development, networking, public speaking and presentation skills, goal clarification and civil discourse.
- The understanding of group dynamics including conflict resolution, working with difficult people, multicultural awareness, teamwork and motivating others.
- Awareness of one's community and the role that an individual plays within a community.

### ***Current Program Components:***

In its most basic and current form, the Student Leadership Program entitled **LEAP, Leaders Engaged to Achieve Their Potential**, is comprised of three components: the Fall Student Leadership Conference, the Leadership Workshop Series and the Recognizing Excellence Awards Reception in the spring.

#### *Fall Student Leadership Conference*

Now in its fourth year, the conference is hosted at the beginning of the academic year as organizations are just beginning to mobilize. The conference is intended to send a consistent message to all student leaders regarding business practices, role modeling and resources, program co-sponsorship as well as enhanced skill development and provide student leaders an opportunity to network with their peers. This year's conference was held on Sunday, September 17, 2006 and attracted 280 student leaders. Smith Alum Catherine Connelly, past Student Government Association President and member of the class of 1995, returned to deliver our keynote address and fifteen different sessions were facilitated addressing topics that ranging from fiscal responsibility to practical leadership.

#### *LEAP Leadership Workshop Series*

These eight "LEAP Lessons" are offered throughout each semester and cover topics ranging from goal setting to balance & wellness. We see these as "informal" intersections for all student leaders as they bring together students from across campus to discuss topics that are of interest. Date, time, location and topics for the fall semester can be found on-line at [www.smith.edu/campuscenter/leadership](http://www.smith.edu/campuscenter/leadership).

#### *Recognizing Excellence Awards Reception*

The *Recognizing Excellence Awards Reception* is designed to recognize and honor the contributions that student leaders and student organizations make to life at Smith. The award recipients are selected from submitted applications for honors in community service, programming, leadership, student employment and social justice advocacy. There are nine awards that are presented and the Campus Center and the Student Government jointly plan this event. Faculty, staff and students from across campus are brought together to serve as members of the selection committee and as presenters.

### ***Program Expansion:***

In order to develop a comprehensive student leadership program, three components will need to be added to the existing program over the next three years. In our first year, we will add an *Emerging Leaders Program*. This program will be open to approximately 50 first-year students and will focus on **exploratory leadership**. Throughout the course of this program students will focus on their transition from being a high school leader to a college leader. The program curriculum will assist them in building a strong leadership foundation while strengthening their network with other student leaders.

The second year program for sophomores and juniors will focus on **engaged and focused leadership**. Over the course of two years this program will work to help students explore the balance between academics and involvement and begin to develop clearer vision of where their energies should be focused. Students become more engaged in their own leadership development and assume more advanced and stronger leadership roles both in and outside of the classroom.

The final phase of the program focuses on seniors and **transitional leadership**. During this year, Smith leaders will reflect on their experiences as a leader at Smith and begin to help shape the next generation of leaders. The program will focus on life skills, career planning and alumnae connections. This final year will celebrate their achievements and help them make connections to the Smith Alumnae Network.

**Budget:**

In constructing the budget for the program it is important to look three years out and the expansion of the existing program to encompass first-years, sophomore, juniors and seniors.

*Year One*

The first year of the program would require a total budget of \$30,000. The breakdown of funding for each program component would be as follows:

Fall Leadership Conference:	\$6,000
16 LEAP Lessons/Year	\$3,200
Emerging Leaders Program	\$15,000
Recognizing Excellence	\$4,000
Program Materials	\$1,800

*Year Two*

The second-year of the program would require us to create a program track for our "graduating" Emerging Leaders. Combining both the sophomores and juniors into one leadership level would increase our budget by \$10,000 for a total of \$40,000.

Fall Leadership Conference:	\$6,000
16 LEAP Lessons/Year	\$3,200
Emerging Leaders Program	\$15,000
Sophomore/Junior Program	\$10,000
Recognizing Excellence	\$4,000
Program Materials	\$1,800

*Year Three*

Our third-year would require another increase to allow for a capstone program to bring closure to our program to those students who took advantage of it throughout their entire Smith experience. A senior capstone program would require the addition of \$10,000 for a total budget of \$50,000.

Fall Leadership Conference:	\$6,000
16 LEAP Lessons/Year	\$3,200
Emerging Leaders Program	\$15,000
Sophomore/Junior Program	\$10,000
Senior Capstone Program	\$10,000
Recognizing Excellence	\$4,000
Program Materials	\$1,800

We estimate that the continued funding of the program at \$50,000 per year would allow us to move approximately 50 students per class year through the formal program in addition to the 200 plus organization leaders, house leaders, student government leaders and others who elect to take part the conference and workshop series.

The facilitation of this program would fall to the Campus Center and the Assistant Director for Organizations and Leadership, a position we hope to add in the next year. The work would continue to be done by the committee listed above as well as other faculty and staff members who share our vision for student leadership.