



Project Overview

The Vision Project at RWU is a University-wide effort to define a roadmap to the future for Roger Williams. Through this process we will challenge ourselves to dig deeper, think bigger and look much farther ahead than is done in traditional strategic plans. Our resulting vision will be bold, vivid, decisive and disciplined: a depiction of the institution we can become through the application of our best ideas and efforts across the next generation. Ultimately, our sights are set on how we can best achieve not merely survival or even success, but *significance*.

Roger Williams University has, to date, successfully met the many challenges facing higher education in the 21st century. At a time when many of our peer institutions are facing falling student numbers and budgetary deficits, Roger Williams University has significantly exceeded its enrollment targets two years in a row. But we cannot rest on our current success. RWU must develop a more comprehensive set of interrelated strategies that will continue to place us in a strong and competitive position.

A first step is to review our current core values to determine if they accurately represent who we are as an institution; to reconsider our mission statement in light of the profound changes that have occurred in the world around us; and to develop a vision statement that gives us a sense of direction and purpose as we consider how best to respond to current and future threats and opportunities.

While the Vision Project must, in the end, be led by those who carry the ultimate responsibility for determining the policies and priorities for RWU – our Board of Trustees – we will rely heavily on our commitment to shared governance. We will engage in a deep and thorough conversation that includes not only all of our campus constituencies, but also allows us to hear voices from outside the campus.

The collective wisdom and creative thought of our entire University community is needed to ensure that the goals we establish respect our past and are aligned with our present, while challenging us to think boldly about our future.

Roger Williams
University

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The Vision Project Timeline

The Process

In order to implement the Vision Project over the course of the next six months, we needed to develop a process that would allow for timely and effective input from all members of the RWU faculty and staff as well as other key members of our community. We enlisted the services of a team from Campbell & Company, a national consulting firm serving the nonprofit sector, to help us accomplish that goal. Campbell & Company will also help coordinate and facilitate our work. It is important to note that they will not author our vision.

An iterative process has been developed that is committee- and team-based, with three formal meetings of each committee/ team scheduled between September 2014 and February 2015. Each group will address the same two-to-three predetermined questions, with input being reviewed, consolidated and synthesized by an Academic Oversight Committee and a Steering Committee before being returned to the originating teams/committees to be further refined at their next meetings.

A final version of our updated Mission and Core Values, along with a Statement of Vision for Roger Williams University, will be presented to the Board of Trustees for their review and formal adoption in June 2015.

Additional information on the process, including committee/team membership and the specific questions being addressed, can be found online.

Key:

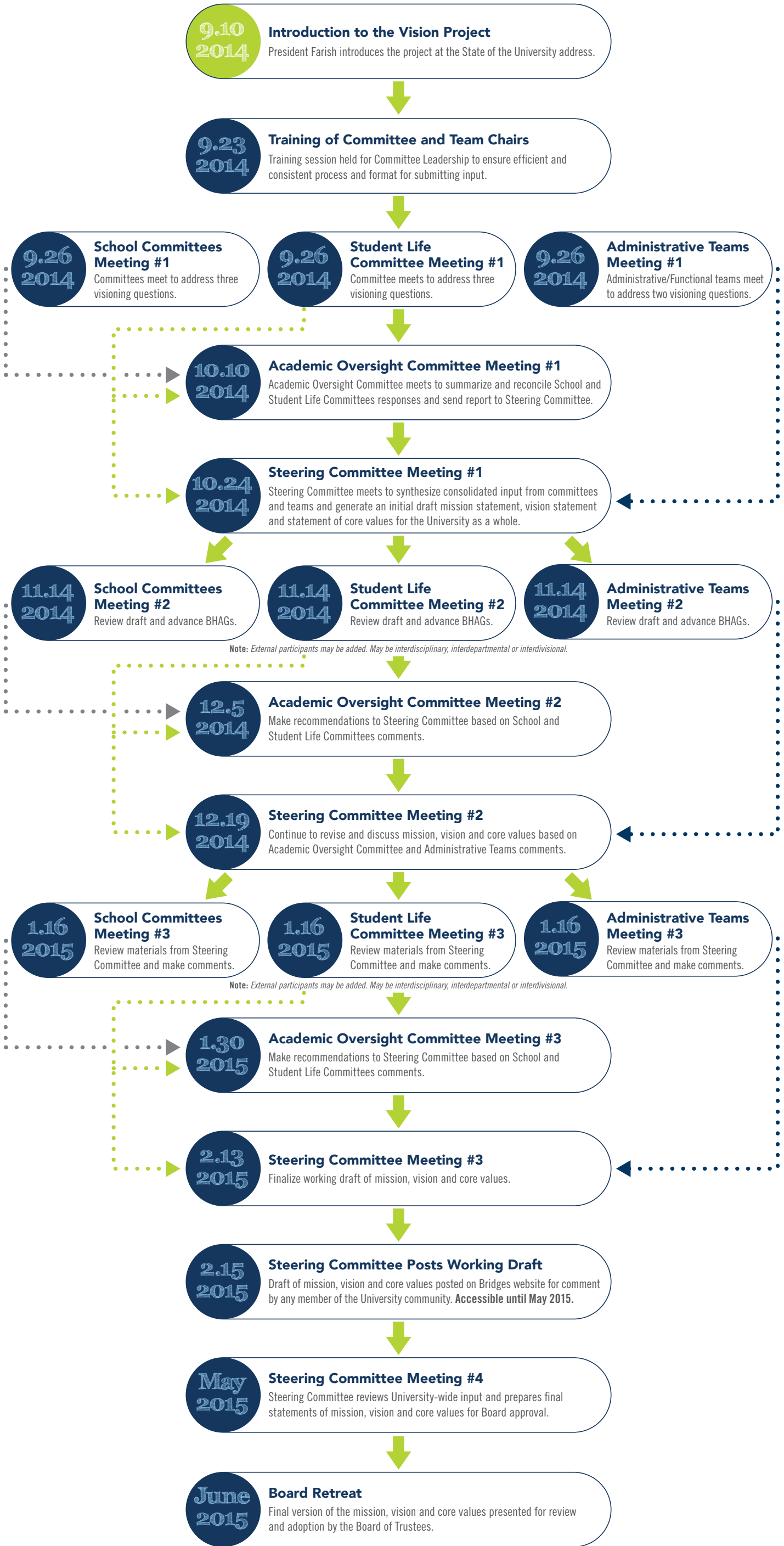
Scheduled Milestone

Completed Milestone

School Committees Work Product Review Path

Student Life Committee Work Product Review Path

Administrative Teams Work Product Review Path



Want to know more?

Online
rwu.edu/go/visionproject
for additional information about this initiative

Bridges
rwu.edu/go/bridgesVision
for RWU faculty and staff to provide input and review postings about the process as it unfolds (your RWU login and password are required to access this site)



Committees

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by the President and members of the Board of Trustees. This committee will be tasked with consolidating all of the input from the various other committees and the University community, and ultimately drafting the final version of the Mission, Vision and Core Values for presentation to the Board of Trustees.

Academic Oversight Committee

The Academic Oversight Committee will be co-chaired by the Provost and a member of the Board of Trustees. This committee will be tasked with summarizing and reconciling the input from the School and Student Life Committees after each meeting, and then sending that information to the Steering Committee for their review.

School and Student Life Committees

The School and Student Life Committees will each be co-chaired by the dean of that school (or the vice president of student life) and a Trustee. Those committees will be tasked with answering three critical questions that relate to RWU's core values; overarching University goals; and opportunities specific to their own area.

Administrative/Functional Teams

The Administrative/Functional Teams will each be chaired by their divisional vice president or her/his designee. They will be tasked with answering the two questions that relate to RWU's core values and the overarching University goals.