



Strategic Planning & Assessment Newsletter

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The Office of Strategic Planning & Assessment

The Office of Strategic Planning & Assessment coordinates and provides guidance and support for assessment and strategic planning across the campus. Our office works closely with the Office of Institutional Research, the Strategic Planning & Assessment Council (SPAC), and the Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee. The office, located in HAB 805, is headed by Associate Provost Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney. Visit our website at <https://www.newpaltz.edu/spa/> to learn more. We can be contacted by emailing vieroww@newpaltz.edu or by calling 845-257-2907.



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The Strategic Planning & Assessment Council (SPAC)

The Strategic Planning & Assessment Council (SPAC) works with Associate Provost Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney to develop and oversee institutional and academic planning. The SPAC provides recommendations to Dr. Garrick Duhaney and regularly communicates planning and assessment progress to faculty, staff, and students. It also develops recommendations to the President and Cabinet for the Strategic Plan and the College's mission. In addition, the Council shares information with the Middle States Reaccreditation Council for self-study materials. It distributes progress reports to the community and stakeholders.

The SPAC replaced the Academic Assessment Council and Administrative Assessment Council, which were dissolved in spring 2017. Membership is on a rotating basis, with terms of three years and a limit of two consecutive terms.

SPAC 2018 Updates

This year, the Council has selected two key areas to address: Retention and Sustainability.

- Understanding the factors that affect the retention of students and faculty is essential to our planning efforts. Teaching and learning, advising and mentoring, inclusion and support for diversity and belongingness all impact retention. The Council is looking at our retention efforts and related data that will inform our recommendations regarding strategic retention initiatives.
- Themes of communication, connection, and community pervade the Council's discussions. Sustainable development, understood in its broadest sense and as described in the [United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals](#), offers a framework for us to connect the work we do to broader themes of sustainability. As an educational institution, the focus of our work is best reflected in Goal 4—Quality Education. Within this main goal, the work we do reflects many of the other goals. The Council is working to make a recommendation about a framework for planning that uses these goals.

SPAC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney, Associate Provost, Strategic Planning & Assessment
Co-chair Deborah Gould, Assistant Provost, Academic Affairs
Co-chair Isidoro Janeiro, Associate Professor, Liberal Arts & Sciences
Sue Books, Professor, School of Education
Dante Cantu, Executive Director, Center for Student Success & Academic Advising
Linda Eaton, Associate Vice President, Student Affairs
Julie Majak, Assistant Vice President, Administration & Finance
Lisa Mitten, Sustainability Coordinator, Facilities Management
Heather Morrison, Associate Professor & History Department Chair, Liberal Arts & Sciences
Tom Nolan, Associate Dean, Science & Engineering
Pamela St. John, Associate Professor, Science & Engineering
Chih-Yang Tsai, Professor, School of Business
Andrea Varga, Associate Professor, Fine & Performing Arts
Lucy Walker, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Research

- As we begin to plan for our Middle States Self-Study and Review, the Council is supporting the integration of our planning efforts into the self-assessment process.

GE Board Updates

At its Fall Forum, the GE Board led a lively discussion of ideas about a revised SUNY New Paltz GE Assessment Plan for 2019-20. The GE Board is now moving forward with creating plan options to share with the faculty.

“We will continue to be guided by the priorities and initiatives of our strategic plan, which remains an effective framework for our continuous improvement.”

President Donald Christian



Associate Provost Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney and Provost Lorin Basden Arnold with 2017 Assessment Award recipients Assistant Dean Sunny Duerr and Associate Vice President Linda Eaton.

Strategic Planning & Assessment Awards

The Office of Strategic Planning & Assessment has established an annual Strategic Planning & Assessment Award to recognize outstanding performance in meeting strategic planning and assessment goals. Nominees must be full-time members of College faculty, staff, or administration. The Strategic Planning & Assessment Council will select two annual Award recipients—one from Academic Affairs and another from outside of Academic Affairs.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Provide the nominee's contact information.
2. Obtain endorsement from the head of the nominee's division.
3. Provide a summary, including concrete evidence that the nominee has contributed substantially in achieving one or more strategic plan and/or assessment goals.
4. Submit nominations by April 12, 2019, to vieroww@newpaltz.edu.

Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee

The first meeting of the Middle States Self-Study Steering Committee took place on September 6, 2018, with introductory remarks by President Donald P. Christian, facts about the self-study and timeline by Provost Lorin Basden Arnold, and an overview of the standards and expectations by co-chairs Associate Provost Laurel M. Garrick Duhaney and Professor Ken Goldstein.

The Self-Study process results in a written Self-Study Report, which along with the Commission's Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation, are the basis during on-site evaluation. The Steering Committee reviews reports prepared by subcommittees to ensure that the College is accomplishing its mission, goals, and the Commission's standards. The Self-Study Report is due in October of 2020.

AWARD JUDGING CRITERIA

Strategic Planning & Assessment Award nominees are judged on one or more of these criteria:

1. Evidence of planning that is linked to assessment and use of assessment information to guide future planning, resource allocation, and/or budget decision making.
2. Planning initiatives or programs that the nominee has implemented and testimonials from internal stakeholders of the impact of planning on advancing institutional or unit/divisional practices.
3. Demonstration of integrated planning that improved institutional procedures, practices, and culture.
4. Use of assessment data to inform and influence improvements in instruction, courses, student learning, etc.