

Strategic Directions 2020

Campus Conversations – SJU Student Senate

November 3, 2014
Sexton 200

President Hemesath provided a brief overview of the Strategic Directions 2020 planning process. He described the planning process as an opportunity to imagine the future of Saint John's University.

President Hemesath asked Senators to consider the following questions:

It is 2020. What distinguishes SJU from other institutions and our competitors? What drew you to Saint John's?

Summary Responses:

- The strength of the alumni network. Saint John's has proud graduates.
- SJU is a community, a home. It is a transformational experience. The residential experience creates community.
- That we remain a college for men distinguishes us.
- The SJU legacy is sustained by community. SJU is like a family away from home, a place where you can belong.
- Anyone can find their voice here, and others can hear it.
- There is a powerful sense of belonging to something that matters at SJU.
- Saint John's builds character, not just excellence.
- The architecture attracts students – it is different and it expresses legacy and tradition. Challenge: the facilities (residential, academic, and athletic) need to be updated. Renovating facilities will be important, combining the old and the new.
- Lifelong relationships and networks define SJU.
- Intercultural competency here is pretty good but there is plenty of room for improvement. We need more diversity, broadly defined, on campus.
- The campus environment is friendly, kind, and genuine.
- Opportunities for spiritual and faith development. Cannot picture SJU without monastic Faculty Residents. This is a spiritually transformative experience.
- Student-to-faculty ratio is an asset. Students are connected to faculty.
- We need to collect and tell success stories of how alums fare after they graduate, the jobs they get, etc.
- The Benedictine values are great, but their effect could be improved in the ways they are expressed and lived (for example, through the gender requirement or the intercultural competency requirement).
- There are many opportunities to develop and advance a career here.
- Distinctions:
 - The holistic education SJU provides is distinctive. We provide students with opportunities to become well-rounded people.
 - A small college experience, but two-colleges-for-one

- Availability of professors and close relationships with them
- The natural environment and setting of the University.
- Personal outreach and contacts. Personalized support and support systems.
- There are more opportunities here than I ever could have imagined.
- Future considerations:
 - Renovate for classrooms of the future (even something as simple as furniture)
 - Make sure SJU remains affordable
 - Reach to students from the past to learn more about their experiences with diversity.
 - Make the finance major more competitive
 - Emphasize career development earlier
 - Get Johnnies more involved in campus activities like clubs, lecture series, cultural activities, etc. Get them involved during their first-year
 - Use images better to enhance Johnnie pride