Q. What twisted mind came up with “this”?
A. The collectively twisted minds of our community! The chronology of events attached to the Blueprint begins with the Building on Strengths planning sessions in 2006 and includes all of the people and stages involved, such as the all-day faculty meetings, work of the Academic Blueprint Task Force, online opportunities for collaboration, and small group lunchtime sessions with Task Force members.

Q. I don’t like these goals. Are we in time to change it?
A. That time has passed, and participating in achievement of the goals is encouraged but not mandatory.

Q. I am excited about the actions in the Academic Blueprint. How can I contribute to its success?
A. The Academic Blueprint identifies general directions and specific actions identifying the parties responsible for their implementation. You can work with them or find ways within your individual role to support the four directions.

Q. Have the faculty been consulted?
A. See the chronology of events. Over 60% of full-time faculty participated in the lunchtime discussions, and consultation has been solicited in public forums, online discussions, informal conversations with Task Force members, and through the integration of other strategic planning efforts across campus.

Q. Will the Academic Senate have to pass this blueprint before it is implemented?
A. Senate consultation has been ongoing, with three Senators participating in the Task Force. As a strategic plan, consultation is most appropriate as there are no policy changes mandated, and the authority for any changes to curriculum would still require appropriate oversight through our customary forms of shared governance. When and if initiatives emanate from the Blueprint that require Senate action, the Senate will consider them.

Q. Where will the money to do all this come from?
A. There are a variety of funding sources identified in the Blueprint, such as external grants and fundraising, existing endowment income, and requests made through the Strategic Initiatives funding process.

Q. What is the Strategic Initiatives funding process, and how can we request support from it?
A. Requests for Strategic Initiative Funds should be submitted to the Dean of your school, who then submits requests to the Provost. Once a request is approved by the Provost, it will be submitted to the Institutional Effectiveness Committee (IEC) for review and ranking based on the prioritization factors listed below. Funding requests from other Vice Presidential areas will also be reviewed. Once prioritized, requests are forwarded to the President’s Cabinet for final funding decisions. Requests should provide a justification that addresses the factors listed below, as applicable. Requests should also indicate if the request can be partially funded or funded in phases, if they are of a “one-time” or recurring nature, and if there are alternative funding sources available.
Factors:
1. Advancing Strategic Plan Objectives
2. Enhancing Academic Excellence
3. Enhancing Student Success
4. Potential for Resource Enhancement
5. Building Capacity Consistent with Institutional Objectives and WASC Standards

Q. I can think of other ways to achieve these goals besides those in the plan. Can I seek support for them from these funding sources?
A. First priority for support from the Strategic Initiatives fund will go to activities in the plan. That does not preclude other proposals from consideration, nor does it preclude their being funded from other internal or external sources.

Q. How is this different from our strategic plan?
A. The Building on Strengths Strategic Plan charges the Provost with developing an academic plan. The Academic Blueprint fulfills that mandate.

Q. How does this plan affect the strategic plan of my school and the action plan of my academic program or department?
A. This plan is not meant to supplant or replace more individualized plans at the school or program level, although there will be areas of congruence.

Q. Will activities that do not contribute to these goals count for less in rank and tenure evaluations than ones that do?
A. No. The criteria for tenure and promotion have not changed.

Q. Will we be informed about our progress towards achieving these goals?
A. Yes.

Q. How?
A. Regular reports to the Senate, and annual reports to the College community from the Provost.

Q. What will I have to do differently?
A. Unless you are specifically named in the Academic Blueprint, nothing. Although you do not have to, we strongly encourage you to consider the directions in the Academic Blueprint as you make decisions within your realm of responsibility.

Q. Do the four directions replace the three traditions?
A. No. The four directions emanate directly from and are an expression of our mission.