President George Benson recently announced the development of a Strategic Planning Committee at the College of Charleston. The group includes faculty, staff and students.

“Our goal for the committee is to build on the College’s strong foundation as a public liberal arts and sciences university, and to design a strategic plan that will continue to lead us down the path to a world class institution,” President Benson said.

The Committee, led by President Benson, Jim Deavor and Amy Thompson McCandless, began meeting in Dec ’07.

“To determine the path forward, we are re-examining our core values and purpose to set priorities for future development,” said Amy Thompson McCandless, Co-chair and Dean of the Graduate School.

Five subcommittees are providing the groundwork by researching and analyzing both internal and external factors that affect the College in today's environment.

According to Sue Sommer-Kresse, Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Planning, the finished plan will define the College’s priorities and lay the foundation for a successful capital campaign that will take us to new heights in educational excellence.

As the committee progresses during the next year, you may be asked to provide input and suggestions through focus groups, committee involvement and surveys.

A strategic planning Web site is being developed and will include feedback opportunities as well.

You will also receive Strategic Planning update emails and additional information throughout the process.

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**Strategic Planning Committee**

**Co-Chairs**

George Benson, President  
Jim Deavor, Department Chair, Chemistry  
Amy Thompson McCandless, Dean of Graduate School

**Committee Members**

Erin Beutel — Associate Professor, Dept of Geology  
Calvin Blackwell — Associate Professor, Dept of Economics and Finance  
David Cohen — Dean, School of Languages, Cultures & World Affairs  
Bob Cape — Senior Vice President, Information Technology  
Renard Harris — Assistant Professor, School of Education  
Whitney Hinds — President, Student Govt. Assn.  
Simon Lewis — Associate Professor, Dept of English  
Marian Mazzone — Department Chair, Art History  
Pam Niesslein — Associate Vice President, Accountability, Accreditation, Planning & Assessment  
Darryl Phillips — Department Chair, Classics  
Kolo Rathburn — Vice President, Graduate Student Assn.  
Lisa Ross — Associate Professor, Dept of Psychology  
Michelle Smith — Director of Information Services  
Sue Sommer-Kresse — Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Planning  
Marjorie Thomas — Senior Assistant to the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs

**Subcommittees & Chairpersons**

Assessment — Erin Beutel  
Competitive Analysis — Darryl Phillips  
Environmental Analysis — David Cohen  
Focus Groups — Marjorie Thomas & Lisa Ross  
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats (SWOT) — Simon Lewis