It has been awhile since we have provided you an update on the progress of the Wooster Campus Strategic Plan. Task force members and the steering committee met December 2018 to discuss and summarize the input from the planning sessions held in September and October of 2018. The writing committee composed of Dave Benfield, Kris Boone, Graham Cochran, Thom Janini, Rhonda Billman and our facilitator Tim Shaffer are finalizing a draft of the plan.

Our vision is “We Sustain Life”. Through the strategic planning process and the charge from Dean Kress, the main objective identified of this process was to capitalize on the unique resources of land, personnel and infrastructure on the Wooster campus that enhances the three mission areas of CFAES and addresses the four grand challenges identified for the College. Coming from a participatory and inclusive process that included faculty, staff, and student, four priorities emerged for the Wooster campus:

1. Become a premier provider of and the center for CFAES workforce development and professional learning and enhancement initiatives for food, agricultural, natural resources and environmental industries and associated professions locally, regionally and nationally;
2. Develop transdisciplinary work in convergent research, extension, and teaching focusing on systemic approaches to advance innovative solutions to the grand challenges of sustainability and one health;¹
3. Create and implement innovative programs that provide an exceptional undergraduate and graduate student experience that utilize the unique resources available on the Wooster campus making this location a preferred campus of choice for food, agricultural, and environmental sciences education and training;
4. Advance the culture of “One Campus” to develop a unified campus concept and identity alignment with the Ohio State and CFAES brand.

These four priorities are guiding our planning process and are organized within the strategic plan using the college planning template into three broad objectives: Operational, Program/Mission and People and Partners. Each of these objectives have several specific aims related to the comments received from participants in the September and October planning sessions.

Our timeline is to have a plan for public review in September 2019. Stay tuned.