

Hawks Attending to Changes in Education – Hawks ACE the 21st Century

Proposers: Beth Hentges, Associate Professor of Psychology & Department Chair; Amanda Johnston, Associate Professor of Psychology; Heather Kanenberg, Associate Professor of Social Work; Christine Kovic, Professor of Anthropology & Department Chair
Shreerekha Subramanian, Associate Professor of Humanities & Department Chair

Executive Summary: We propose addressing the question of what it means to be a twenty-first century university through interdisciplinary conversations focused on our changing context and our student needs. The university as an institution and concept began a millennia ago, and has had a long and hallowed history, but is often slow to change. In the twenty-first century, we need to be agile as an institution, quick to think and act on our feet, and to change with the times. This includes responding to student needs, changes in demographics, changes in technology, climate change, and general adaptability to the future; what this translates into in practical terms is that our students need to be nimble and adaptable to a future that involves career shifts, have practical skills in training and imagining solutions to emerging problems, be able to devise strategies to tackle challenges of the day, and reconcile with changing technology and community needs. The university as it operated through most of its history, especially in the twentieth century, is a changing institution given the emergence of open access educational materials, online universities, changing markets, global competition, and multi-tasking adult students who need applied skills along with a well-rounded liberal arts education. The goal of the *Hawks ACE the 21st Century* QEP is to define our grand purpose and distinctiveness in order to focus on institutional enhancement to adapt to the changes and use our resources to strengthen the strategic themes of educational achievement, inclusive culture and university identity. These goals will be reached through innovative collaboration; the QEP will address all 4 themes, and strengthen our students, community, and university .