VISION STATEMENT: DRAFT FOR INITIAL COMMUNITY DISCUSSION
Approved by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, April 2003

Paragraph 1:

(1) Illinois Wesleyan University will be an eminent, national liberal arts institution that offers students distinctive opportunities for intellectual development in all academic programs. (2) Emphasizing the liberal arts curriculum as the core of every student’s education, the University will provide, in addition, opportunities for professional or pre-professional preparation. (3) The Illinois Wesleyan faculty will be talented and diverse, will be actively engaged in the discovery, creation, and dissemination of knowledge and art, and will be excellent teachers, mentors, and advisors. (4) Guided by the promise of its historical motto, “Scientia et Sapientia” (knowledge and wisdom), the University will stimulate a passion for lifelong learning, seeking to help its community members make connections among ideas and experiences so that they may understand and act more effectively in the world.

Paragraph 2:

(1) As a residential university of 2,000 students, Illinois Wesleyan will provide an intellectually and artistically vibrant environment, with rich cocurricular offerings to complement the University’s primary academic mission. (2) In this setting, all members of the on-campus community—students, faculty, and staff—will be active contributors to campus life. (3) Illinois Wesleyan will be highly selective in recruiting students who have a strong motivation to pursue the best education that the University has to offer. (4) All students will have opportunities to work individually, and often collaboratively, with faculty and staff. (5) All will have multicultural interactions of national and international dimension. (6) Students will be challenged to develop their capacities, cultivate their individual talents, follow multiple interests, and establish self-confidence tempered with humility. (7) The University will strive to graduate individuals who become ethical world citizens and who make significant contributions to their communities.
Paragraph 3:

(1) All campus grounds, facilities, and support services will be of high quality and will provide an environment that inspires the pursuit of learning and encourages health and well-being. (2) The University will demonstrate its commitment to physical accessibility and financial affordability for all students. (3) IWU will have a strong financial base and will develop the resources — both human and physical — to support all of its endeavors.

Paragraph 4:

(1) The extended University community--not only those on campus, but alumni, trustees, parents, donors, and friends locally and around the world--will be diverse, welcoming, and committed to high ideals. (2) Governance of the institution will be open and accessible to active, well-informed participation from all constituencies. (3) All community members will have a lifelong sense of belonging, will value Illinois Wesleyan’s traditions, and will respect and support the University. (4) As an institution, IWU will demonstrate a meaningful commitment to social justice, including care for the natural world.

4/10/03