

## Future Timeline Themes |

Participants identified the following themes that would impact or influence the School over the next 10 years.

### 1. The cost of education and student debt

- Who can afford dictates our student body
- Pay gap for our professions
- Masters degrees are the new bachelors

### 2. International trends

- Climate change
- Forced migration
- Aging populations

### 3. Local St. Louis issues

- City-County merger
- Homelessness & housing instability
- Gun violence
- Education equity
- Imbalance of WUSTL power & money in our community

### 4. Polarization and the political and economic landscape

- Regionally and nationally
- Tax law changes impacts people's giving to non-profits
- Potential reduction in funding for social programs
- Addressing climate change
- Major shift in judiciary system impacting our professions
- Expansion (or lack of) of healthcare
- Increase of the wealth gap

### 5. Technology Influence

- Social media
- Automation and artificial intelligence
- Social skills of students and professionals
- Increased mental health challenges
- Teaching methodologies
- Telemedicine
- Role in providing services

## Five Strategic Questions Themes |

Below are the major themes that emerged for each strategic question.

1

Challenges to deal with over the next 5 years

- Rising cost of education
- Retirement of School leaders and faculty
- Political polarization and swings of public opinion
- Diversifying our employer/job pool for students
- Public health and social work advocacy within healthcare provider settings
- Impact of technology on our teaching

## Five Strategic Questions Themes | *Continued*

### 2 School values to preserve

- Equity, diversity and inclusion
- Affordability
- Transdisciplinary & evidence-based
- Community building (internal and external to School)
- High quality education
- Innovative curriculum with emphasis on collaborative problem-solving

### 3 Key opportunities we must pursue to achieve excellence

- Push for more non-traditional social work roles
- Emphasize the value of our professions
- Strengthen career services and networking support
- Attract top talent & limit debt burden
- Paid practicums and more diverse opportunities
- Make higher education more affordable
- Increase collaboration with other WUSTL schools and institutes

### 4 One thing to change

- Help students articulate the value of our professions
- More paid practicum opportunities
- Raise quality of teaching to be on par with research
- Focus on building students' skills and not on building buildings
- Promote evidence-based practice outside of research journals

### 5 Change in school culture

- Continue diversity, inclusion, and equity work – make it authentic
- Implement cohort model to help build culture of community
- Expect academic accountability
- Work to lessen the WUSTL “bubble” perception
- Work more sustainably in our communities (e.g., The Promise Zone)
- Greater emphasis on macro thinking, policy action, and non traditional career paths