How can Wilson remain “woman centered” and ensure her traditions if coeducation is pursued?
The commission has talked about the fact that we control the ability to retain a woman-centered aspect in our community. By identifying those programs, traditions and valued aspects of our culture, we can ensure that they will endure. Key to this is to provide institutional support that will integrate these aspects into the life of the College over time and safeguard our “women centeredness.” The nature of the campus will not be transformed overnight. There is time for us to purposefully plan for and nurture the evolution of Wilson’s culture.

How will Wilson women have a transformative experience that gives them confidence and voice if men are admitted?
The hallmark of a quality liberal arts education—whether single-sex or coed—is to provide a transformative experience that challenges students to think critically and express themselves. Wilson follows this tradition. Further, by upholding the Honor Principle and by providing outlets that focus on preserving attention to developing confidence for women, we can make sure that the voice of women will carry strength in our culture in perpetuity.

Why can’t Wilson remain a small college?
The target projected by the commission for undergraduate residents is only 700 students, keeping Wilson among the smaller liberal arts colleges in the nation. But Wilson cannot remain the tiny college we are today. Because we are tuition driven and have been in a state of enrollment stagnation for decades, we are not in a position with regard to our endowment, our annual fiscal health or our physical plant to remain at current, low levels of enrollment.

We need to take pride in being a women’s college and extensively promote it. Why haven’t you done this?
Wilson is beginning the process of instituting a comprehensive marketing program to help the College reach audiences, manage its brand, and achieve enrollment goals. Part of this process will involve taking ownership of and pride in Wilson’s story, regardless of the commission results. We are focused on providing best practices and moving the College forward.

Why not try everything but coeducation and see if they can pull the College to fiscal sustainability?
Wilson continues to look at a range of options both with and without coeducation. But with just 2 percent of college-bound females who will actively consider and ultimately apply to a women’s college, enrollment projections, even optimistic ones, without coeducation do not lead Wilson to a point of fiscal sustainability. While delaying the decision is an option, it would add to our overall debt and provide obstacles to the College’s ability to obtain debt financing for much needed improvements and expansion of the College’s physical plant.

If we better target the 2 percent of high school seniors who will apply to a women’s college, then we should enroll 300 students a year.
And we’ve heard 4 percent in the past; that would be 600 students. Shouldn’t that provide sufficient enrollment?
Assuming we get “our share” of the 2-4 percent and 300-600 students apply, those numbers do not correlate to the total that will enroll after Wilson’s average acceptance and yield (number of students who enroll) rates are applied, e.g.:

- Pool of College for Women students = 300-600 possible applications
- 5-year acceptance rate of 50.42% = 151-303 students offered enrollment
- 5-year yield rate of 38.74% = 59-118 who would enroll
- Current 5-year average annual enrollment = 121 students
Why have you only looked at a small number of colleges who changed from single-sex education to coed as models for the process?

Through both the markets and college success stories subgroups, the commission researched and contacted a range of colleges—both single sex that remained such and those that did not, as well as coed liberal arts colleges that instituted transformative change—for pathways to compare and explore. While many have mentioned a variety of colleges not specifically referred to by the commission in presentations, not all women’s colleges are comparable in this circumstance. In order to craft a realistic set of recommendations, it became necessary to reference colleges that fit a similar profile to Wilson: small endowment, liberal arts, a campus setting not within an urban area and a small to modest enrollment. This makes the situation of a number of the oft-cited examples for remaining coed unrealistic for commission projections.

Why are we only hearing about the College’s fiscal situation now that coeducation is being considered?

Wilson faces an imposing fiscal challenge that will only worsen over time. The task of the commission was to look at all means to put the College on solid financial footing in order to survive. There is not a single solution for Wilson that will assure success. Rather, many changes must be strategically adopted with sound reasoning, sufficient resources, strong support and continuous evaluation.

Student life is an important part of retention but was not a part of the final presentation. Why?

Student life plays a major role in the commission’s recommendations. The quality of life subgroup was focused on issues affecting the daily lives of students. Recommendations for improvements to infrastructure and retention are directly tied to student life. Additionally, all projections for growth take into account the necessary increase in staffing to handle a larger student body, including Office of Student Development personnel.

Have you considered fundraising and grants to achieve fiscal stability?

Yes. Grants favor colleges with higher enrollments. This past year, Wilson came very close to a number of grants but fell short, in part, due to our low enrollments. The Wilson Fund is currently slated to raise $1.3 million this year and our endowment stands at $60 million. Fundraising would have to achieve the following levels based on plan options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Wilson Fund</th>
<th>Endowment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>$7.1 million/yr.</td>
<td>$174 million by 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Except Coed</td>
<td>$7 million/yr.</td>
<td>$171.5 million by 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are the rates for participation in the Wilson Fund from all constituencies?

We cannot confirm the rate of 40 percent that is widely being referenced because the ways in which participation rates among our constituencies have been calculated have varied. However, Wilson Fund participation rates for the 2011-12 year were as follows:

CFW Alumnae Wilson Fund Giving = 24.37%

By Decade
30s 24%
40s 41%
50s 51%
60s 41%
70s 25%
80s 12%
90s 3%
00s 3%

ADP Alumni Wilson Fund Giving = 5.63%

Why are you rushing the process? Alumnae have not had enough time to be a part of the discussion.

The Board of Trustees of Wilson College approved the establishment of the commission in fall 2011. Members were assigned and began meeting during spring 2012. The process was specifically designed to be transparent and to provide opportunities for all of our audiences to be heard and engaged in the process. To that end, the College has been purposeful about communicating the process and its progress to alumnae/i in a variety of venues and formats. Unfortunately, we have no control over how or when people choose to interact with the College.