



Aligned Insights: *Executing Strategic Plans*

Turning Vision into Impact – Ensuring your Strategic Plan Maintains its Momentum through Execution.

The biggest challenge in executing your strategic plan is bridging the gap between strategy and execution. Faculties within post-secondary institutions invest significant time and effort into developing a strategic plan and while all strategic plans have ambitious goals that often revolve around student engagement, service enhancement, and overall operational efficiency, many faculties often struggle to maintain momentum through execution. Despite having a well-defined strategic plan, execution often stalls due to the limited resources, unclear governance, and failure to recognize the core problem. Setting the direction of your faculty for 5 years and developing a strategic plan is already a large and challenging task, however, executing the plan is even more challenging.

There are several challenges that faculties face when operationalizing a strategic plan. When there is a lack of clear accountability and governance, progression often stalls. This is only amplified by the limited capacity staff have to execute the initiatives while still managing their day-to-day responsibilities. The biggest challenges lie within the absence of structured data to ensure informed decision making. Slow execution timelines cause momentum and buy-in to fade, leading to a strategic plan with strong potential and limited progression. So, how can you operationalize your strategic plan effectively while minimizing the impact of challenges?



Operationalizing Your Strategic Plan

The key to operationalizing your strategic plan is to establish which elements truly require change. This process begins with defining what the primary objectives are to guide the transformation. Leaders also need to reflect on the strategic plan and determine if there are any components that need to be prioritized to more effectively realize the benefits of the strategic plan while also defining what data they need to make the decisions. This can be done through the following:

- **Strategic Alignment:** Ensuring the faculty objectives are complementary and in line with the university wide priorities.
- **Defined Execution Framework:** Establishing governance, roles, responsibilities, and clear decision-making structures.
- **Operational Process Optimization:** Streamlining workflows and efficiencies to not only provide a foundation for execution, but ensuring teams have time to support the strategic plan.
- **Data-Driven:** Capturing key information to support decision making, prioritization, and outbound communications.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Leveraging subject matter experts effectively to inform change while protecting their overall capacity.

The window for operationalizing strategic plans is limited, and delayed implementation often leads to stakeholder disengagement and stalled progress. Aligned Outcomes (AO) ensures that faculties can move quickly from planning to progress through structured, results driven methodologies.

A Faculty Led, Data Driven Approach:

For strategic plans to succeed, they must be executed efficiently by leveraging the expertise of those throughout the faculty. By involving Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in a structured and focused manner, faculties can optimize execution with maximum buy-in.

AO provides faculties with the methodology of Team Enabled Transformation through their Current State Capture™ and Target State Design™. These offerings utilize their Enterprise Digital Twin software. Through these tools and offerings, faculties can rapidly identify and implement quick wins while building long-term process improvements. The faculties can align their operation execution in line with the institution's goals, ensuring a sustainable impact. Through the utilization of structured data capture, decision making is enhanced allowing all changes to be impactful and important.

Moving from Planning to Meaningful Change:

Operationalizing your strategic plan is important for the faculty to always provide the best experience to their stakeholders. Faculties do not need to struggle with the execution delays and inefficiencies. By utilizing the right methodologies and tools, strategic priorities can move from vision to impact all while protecting resources, enhancing services, and ensuring a positive student experience.



Aligned Outcomes™ is a Canadian company that brings the innovation of "Digital Twin" technology to solve complex enterprise optimization – fast and with precision. Founded in 2014, AO is powered by skilled coaches, an innovative human-centric method and the application of sophisticated automation, Aligned Outcomes delivers insight, control and savings to leading organizations who are driving growth through digital automation and complex transformation.

