The road to excellence: Transforming undergraduate education at UF

Board of Trustees
June 13 2008

Daniel A. Wubah
Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Vision and goal

Vision

UF undergraduate programs will be ranked among the best in a public AAU university

Goal

To enhance selected undergraduate programs that will collectively place UF among the top AAU public universities
Strengths

- High quality of undergraduate students
- Breadth of programs and course offerings
- Nationally ranked programs
- World class faculty
- Faculty mentoring and research opportunities for students
Selected peers

- Penn State University
- University of Texas - Austin
- University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of Washington - Seattle
- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Indiana University - Bloomington
Strategic aspirants

- Well-structured freshman and sophomore signature experiences
- Theme-based General Education curriculum that provides common experience for all students during the first two years
- Four-year Honors Program
- Coordinated opportunities for undergraduate research and creative work for all students
- Ongoing enhancement of faculty teaching skills and quality advising
Strategic aspirants

- Close faculty-student interactions
- Residential experiences that promote learning beyond the classroom
- International experiential learning and global competency
- Internships, service learning and civic engagement
- Programs that enhance life-long learning
What we must do (Short term)

+ Enhance existing freshman and sophomore experiences
+ Review General Education curriculum
+ Revamp Honors Program
+ Coordinate undergraduate research and creative opportunities for all students
+ Provide discovery-based senior capstone experience
Long term plans

+ Develop a strategic plan for undergraduate education starting with a leadership retreat for stakeholders (faculty, deans, advisors, etc.)
  + Action plan
  + Timeline
  + Ongoing assessment with benchmarks

+ Implement the strategic plan

+ Start preparing for SACS accreditation
# Action plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 2008</td>
<td>Establish Committee on Undergraduate Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2009</td>
<td>Committee submits report to Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2009</td>
<td>Provost releases report to campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2009</td>
<td>Deadline for faculty and students to respond to report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2009</td>
<td>Deadline for colleges to respond to Provost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2009</td>
<td>Review and action by Dean’s Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2009</td>
<td>Establish Implementation Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2009</td>
<td>Share Implementation Plan with campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2010</td>
<td>Review and action by Faculty Senate &amp; Trustees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2010</td>
<td>Start implementation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcomes

- UF will be the model for large public research universities
- UF will continue to attract and engage the best students
- Our students will be better prepared to compete and excel in the global market place of the future
- Our students will be future leaders for economic development