

Academic Leadership Meeting  
University of Kentucky  
Monday, September 26, 2016

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**Purpose:** Create a sustained dialogue about the academic mission and how best to move it forward across several fronts and initiatives. Develop a conduit to engage faculty at the department- and college-levels in these discussions.

### **Initiative 1. Graduate Education**

#### **A. (Re)envisioning the “graduate student experience” for the future:**

- What should the philosophical framework be? Where is the intersection between students and their experience and faculty members and their research?
- What should the educational experience look like? How do we best meet the needs of the students in preparing them for the future? Faculty understand the need to prepare students for a wider array of jobs, but how do we help faculty prepare students for those careers? How do we prepare students for an ever-changing work environment?
- What do you need from the Provost Office or the Graduate School in terms of concrete initiatives, support systems, and cultural shifts to best support graduate students?

#### **B. Developing a University “portfolio of graduate programs” for the future:**

- Who should and how to develop criteria for starting new graduate programs and for sun-setting programs?
- Who should and how best to develop criteria for assessing the effectiveness, impact and viability of graduate programs?

Laying the groundwork for the next 10-15 years; a permanent graduate administrative structure; address TA stipend levels; invest in support services and infrastructure; other issues. Agree on the central goals of Graduate Education (student experience first); have a collective view of the future (a varied job market); and a faculty-governed process for developing, strengthening, and (if needed) sun-setting programs.

### **Initiative 2. Undergraduate Education**

This spring, the Provost Office began a restructure to merge Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education, which resulted in the division of Student and Academic Life. The restructure is an attempt to marry the formal curriculum with extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and to

reposition the central units to be in service of the colleges and their students. The restructure complements the UG section of the strategic plan, which sets forth three main areas:

**C. Providing impactful support for students to assure their success:**

- Academic advising (decentralization of ~ 30 positions in the colleges)
- Counseling (initial hiring of 8 counselors, with more to come)
- Community of concern (adding case managers and working with faculty to change the academic alert process)

**D. Foster innovative teaching and learning:**

- Expand the training in and adoption of innovative pedagogical methods
- Coordinate tutoring across campus for students to enhance their learning
- Assist students in identifying learning style and provide multi-modal delivery of knowledge

**E. Provide students opportunities to participate in transformational experiences:**

- Lewis Honors College (build out to reach 2000 students and develop integrated relationship with colleges)
- Internationalization of the campus (double international enrollment)

**Initiative 3. Interdisciplinary Initiative**

UK has a full complement of disciplines on one contiguous campus, which it provides opportunities for interdisciplinary work, if we harness it correctly.

**F. Taking advantage of an inherent strength of the number of disciplines on our campus:**

- If we are to be student-centered (undergraduate and graduate), then how do we create opportunities for interdisciplinary work and programs?
- What is the best way to leverage our disciplines with our strategic research directions?
- How best should they be aligned also with new educational initiatives in professional masters programs?

**Follow-up:** Facilitate an academic dialogue on these issues. Continue the conversation at our next meeting, but also welcome feedback any time in between. Ask that you take this conversation back to your departments and colleges and discuss these ideas with your colleagues to bring forth their thoughts, concerns, and perspectives.