

Undergraduate Curriculum Task Force
Friday, October 3, 2008, 2:00 p.m.
226 Tigert Hall Conference Room

Present:

Task Force Members: David Bloomquist, Marian Borg, Keith Carodine, Mary Kay Carodine, Barbara Curbow, Sheila Dickison, Bruce Edwards, Catherine Emihovich, Martin Gundersen, Stephanie Hanson, Selman Hershfield, David Julian, Andy McCollough, Erica McCray, William McKeen, Maureen Novak, Michael Olexa, Diane Porter-Roberts, Brian Ray, Mark Rush, Judith Russell, Edward Schaefer (Co-Chair), Jill Varnes (Co-Chair) and Daniel Wubah
Non-Task Force Members: Joseph Glover and Arlene Tabag

Absent:

Wayne Griffin, Susanne Hill, Albert Matheny, Michael McKenzie, Toshi Nishida and Elaine Turner

1. Welcome and charge: The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. Joe Glover, Provost and Sr. Vice President who gave the task force its charge of reviewing the university's undergraduate curriculum. He mentioned the importance of the Task Force to the senior administration and the support of the Board of Trustees for its work.

Glover believes the University of Florida is constrained by number factors:

- a. Size: With 37,000 undergraduates, it is a huge undertaking to change practices administratively and to change the culture.
 - b. Academic culture: Once the task force starts talking about undergraduate experiences, there will be faculty and departments that feel the undergraduate experience is their job. The task force needs to recognize it is a representative group which will represent academic units across campus. Glover feels getting departments to modify its way is no small task since the task force will recommending and implementing a series of ways to influence the undergraduate culture and also attempting to implement ways colleagues perceive their delivery of undergraduate education.
 - c. Budget: Whatever the design, it must be realizable within the constraints of the University of Florida budget which is nebulous for the task force since it does not know the college budgets. Within colleges, funds are allocated differently towards undergraduate experiences.
2. Comments by Associate Provost Daniel Wubah. Wubah passed out a PowerPoint presentation which he presented to the Board of Trustees. He fully believes this has come up at a good time and reviewing the undergraduate curriculum needs to be done now. He is not chairing the task force himself because the faculty owns the curriculum and the committee should be representative of the faculty. He envisions the initial goal of the task force to be tapping into the collective wisdom of the faculty. Wubah feels UF can be a leader national in undergraduate experience. Wubah is an ex-officio member of the task force. His assistant, Arlene Tabag will provide logistical support for the task force.

3. Lay-out of the task

Co-Chair Jill Varnes shared a student's quote from Florida Tomorrow which she hoped the task force would achieve, "You come in with a dream and you leave with a world of opportunities."

The goal

To forge an undergraduate experience of the highest quality at UF, an experience that will be recognized as such by its impact on the ranking of the university as one of the best public institutions in the country. There are three components to this task:

- a. Assess where we are.
- b. Determine best practices.
- c. Determine what should be the distinctive characteristics of a UF undergraduate experience and how those characteristics should be implemented.

Some areas to explore in the process

These are a list of experiences that were identified a few years ago for UF undergraduates. The goal is to have our undergraduates experience two of these items.

- a. Working with faculty on research.
- b. International travel.
- c. Internships.
- d. Leadership service.
- e. Other opportunities.

The Action Plan

Co-Chair Ed Schaefer discussed the action plan of the task force.

- a. There will be two initial subcommittees:
 - i. Assess the current practices/situations at UF.
 - ii. Determine the best practices. What is happening elsewhere that UF can model.
- b. Retreat on Tuesday, October 28th at Lake Wauburg from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (lunch will be provided).
 - i. Subcommittees will present their findings.
 - ii. Distill the findings and use them to focus on major academic experiences that we think UF undergraduate students should have (distinctive characteristics).
 - iii. Reshuffle the group and establish ways to come up with a report based on those tenets.
- c. By November 30th the subcommittees will present drafts of their proposal.
- d. By December/January refine the proposals.
- e. By January 30th submit the proposal to the Provost.

4. Getting Started

Choosing your subcommittee and select chair

- a. Current Practices – Varnes will provide support for subcommittee.
Members: Marian Borg, Keith Carodine, Bruce Edwards, Wayne Griffin, Martin Gundersen, Albert Matheny, Andy McCollough (Chair), Erica McCray, William

McKeen, Maureen Novak, Michael Olexa, Diane Porter-Roberts, Brian Ray, Elaine Turner.

This subcommittee will begin to work on a short survey of our students to get some immediate feedback about what is going on. This subcommittee will work with the associate deans to get the survey pushed out. We want to hear from graduating seniors to find out what their experiences have been and get some reflective thought from them.

- b. Best Practices – Schaefer will provide support for subcommittee.

Members: David Bloomquist, Mary Kay Carodine, Barbara Curbow, Shelia Dickison, Catherine Emihovich, Stephanie Hanson, Selman Hershfield, Susanne Hill, David Julian (Chair), Michael McKenzie, Toshi Nishida, Mark Rush, Judith Russell.

- 5. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.