



UF Quest: Faculty Senate Presentation 1

Background and Process

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Faculty Senate Presentations



UF QUEST

**UNIVERSITY
OF FLORIDA**

Logo Design: Maria Pitt, UF 2016

- **March Meeting**
 - Background on pre-eminence program for undergraduates
 - Actions to date
 - Process for unfolding a full program
- **April Meeting**
 - Final proposed framework for UF Quest
- **May Meeting**
 - Summary of faculty feedback and responses
 - Request for Senate support of UF Quest

UF

2010 Task Force on Undergraduate Education

- Work towards creation of a signature experience for FTIC students with themed approach and electronic portfolios
- Use themed signature program to develop specific leadership opportunities for juniors and seniors
- Increase opportunities for experiential learning
- Assist development of, promotion of, oversight of, and accountability for interdisciplinary, creative and research-oriented studies
- Incorporate service learning and civic engagement goals into theme-based curriculum
- Increase role of First-Year Florida
- Create a co-curricular transcript for students
- Re-examine the purpose of general education curriculum

Opportunity for a Pre-eminent Shared Undergraduate Experience in Florida SUS



“In order to provide a jointly shared educational experience, a university that is designated a preeminent state research university may require its incoming first-time-in-college students to take a ~~9-to-12~~ 6-credit set of unique courses specifically determined by the university and published on the university’s website. The university may stipulate that credit for such courses may not be earned through any acceleration mechanism...or any other transfer credit.”

Florida Statute 1001.7065, 2013, 2016

Common Attributes of “Shared” Academic Experiences in General Education

- Intellectually unifying
- Sustained engagement with significant texts and enduring human questions
- Can have shared readings, issues, and assignments
- Can have shared signature experiences
- Shared subset of student learning outcomes



Case for a Shared Academic Experience

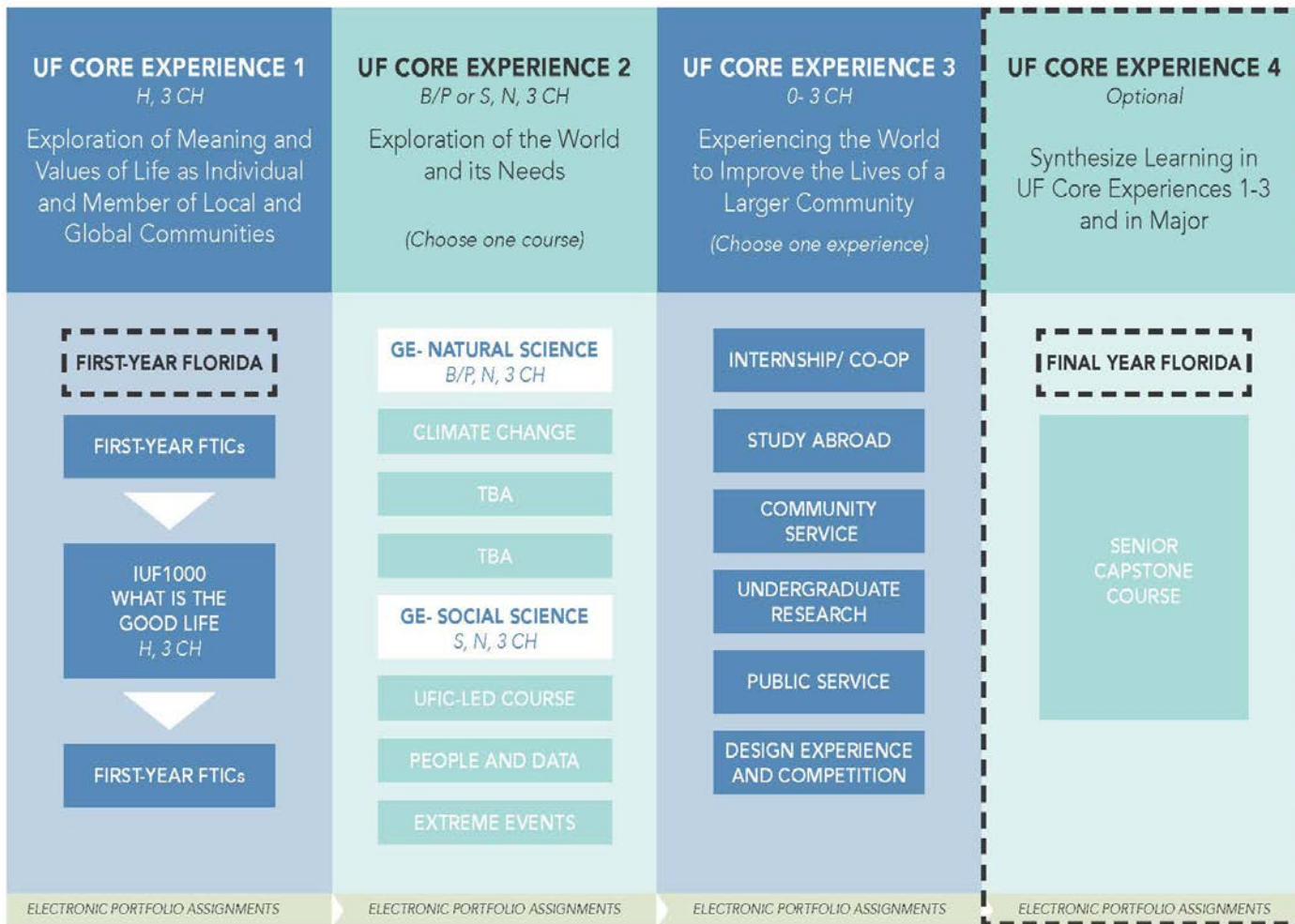
- Cohort bonding among students and sense of belonging to a scholarly community
- Enhanced awareness of the value of general education
- Transitioning to the rigor of university coursework
- Exposure to critical analysis, complex thinking, self-reflection, communication, decision-making, and other foundational content inherent in general education
- Sequentially linked courses reinforce content knowledge and cognitive skills
- Increased retention through inclusion of high-impact academic practices



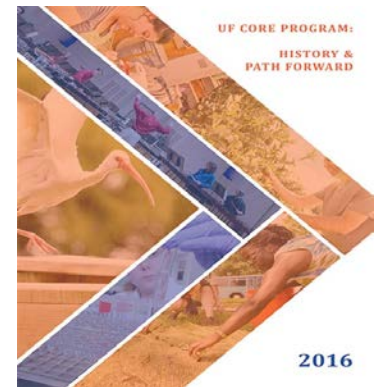
Initial UF “Core” Model



- All FTIC students take all 3 courses
- Total of 9 credit hours
- In addition to other UF and statewide general education requirements
- All courses completed within the first two years



New Pathway: Spring 2016



Task Force 1
Chair:
Dr. Andy Wolpert, CLAS

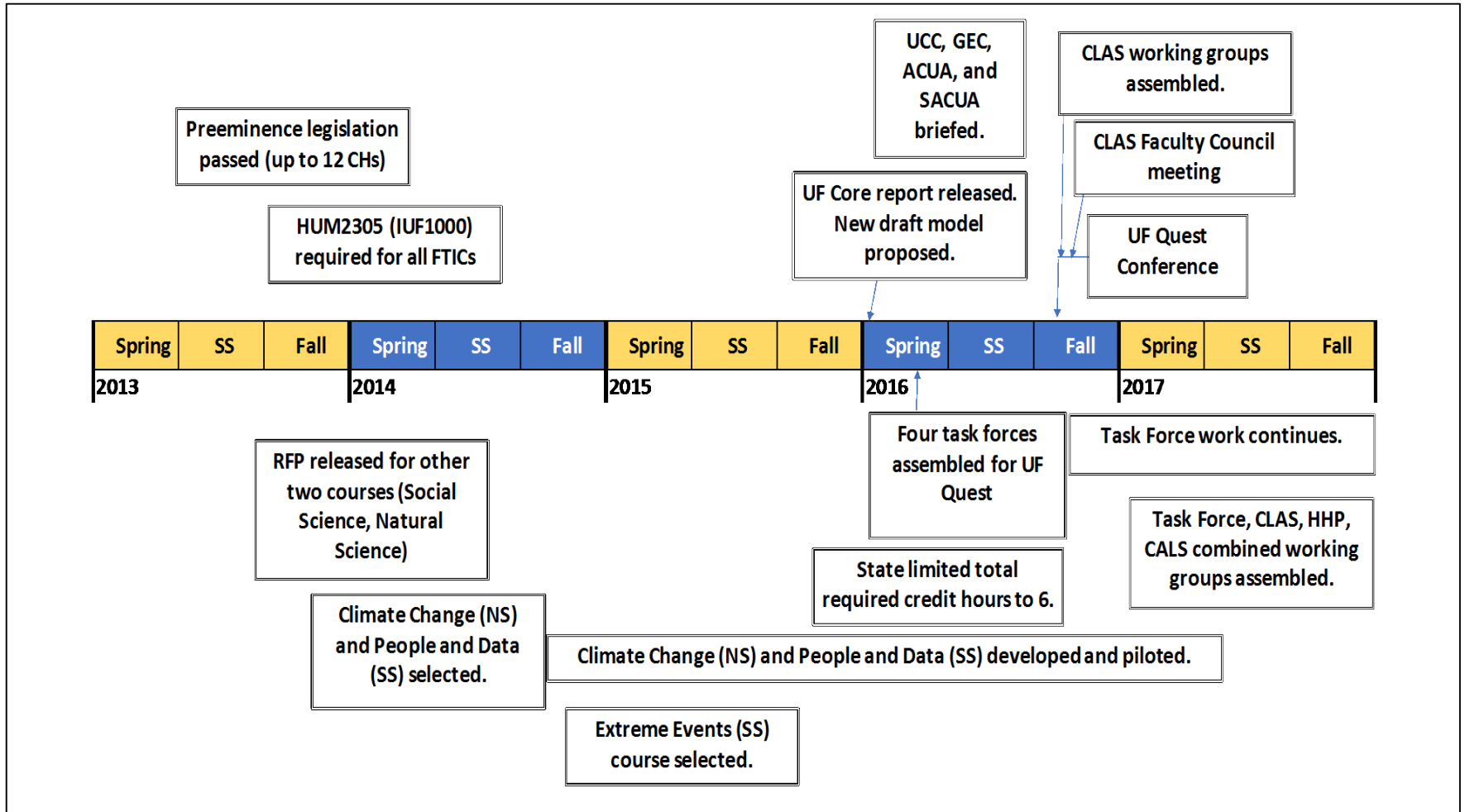
Task Force 2
Chair:
Dr. David Miller, COE

Task Force 3
Chair:
Dr. Chris Hass, HHP

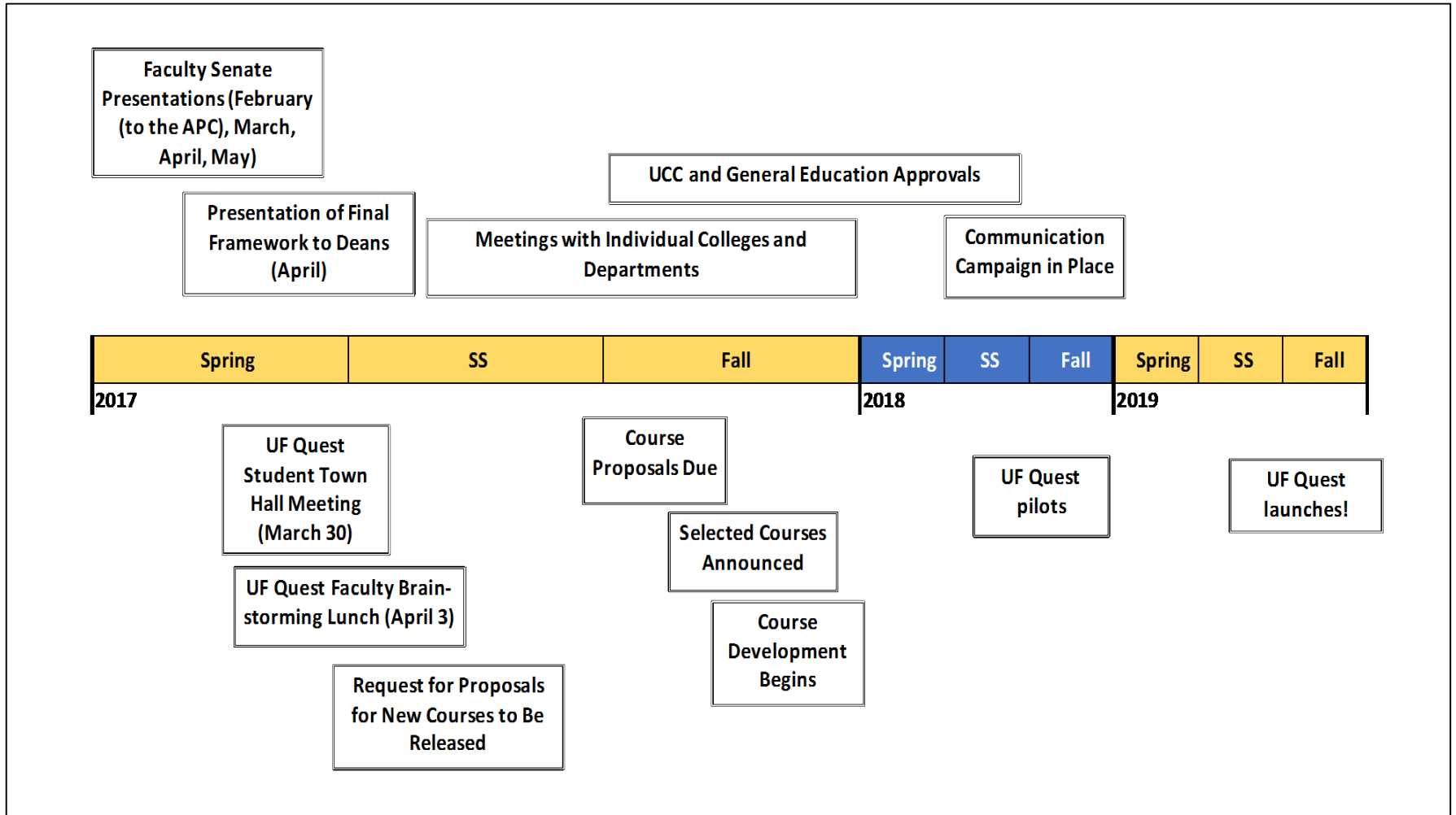
Task Force 4
Chair:
Dr. Elayne Colon, COE



Timeline to Date



Timeline: Now Until Launch



Next Up in April: Final Proposed Framework

“...[humans], if they were ever to lose the appetite for meaning we call **thinking** and **cease to ask unanswerable questions**, would lose not only the ability to produce **those thought-things** that we call works of art **but also the capacity to ask all answerable questions upon which every civilization is founded....”** **-Hannah Arendt**



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UF

“To bridge means loosening our borders, not closing off to others.

Bridging is the work of opening the gate to the stranger, within and without....

To bridge is to attempt community, and for that we must risk being open to personal, political and spiritual intimacy.... ”

--Anzaldúa & Keating, 2002, This Bridge We Call Home, p. 3