UF Quest: Faculty Senate Presentation 1

Background and Process

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Faculty Senate Presentations

- 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
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

- IUF1000: “What Is the Good Life?” (H, 3 CH)
- “The Challenge of Climate Change” (B/P, 3 CH)
- “An Informed Life: People and Data” (S, 3 CH)

- 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

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<td>Dr. Andy Wolpert, CLAS</td>
<td>Dr. David Miller, COE</td>
<td>Dr. Chris Hass, HHP</td>
<td>Dr. Elayne Colon, COE</td>
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Timeline to Date

- **2013 Spring**: Preeminence legislation passed (up to 12 CHs)
- **2014 Spring**: HUM2305 (IUF1000) required for all FTICs
- **2014 Fall**: RFP released for other two courses (Social Science, Natural Science)
- **2015 Spring**: Climate Change (NS) and People and Data (SS) selected.
- **2015 Fall**: Extreme Events (SS) course selected.
- **2016 Spring**: UCC, GEC, ACUA, and SACUA briefed.
- **2016 SS**: UF Core report released. New draft model proposed.
- **2016 Fall**: Four task forces assembled for UF Quest
- **2016 Fall**: State limited total required credit hours to 6.
- **2017 Spring**: CLAS working groups assembled.
- **2017 SS**: CLAS Faculty Council meeting
- **2017 Fall**: UF Quest Conference
- **2017 Fall**: Task Force, CLAS, HHP, CALS combined working groups assembled.
- **2018 Fall**: Task Force work continues.
Timeline: Now Until Launch

- Faculty Senate Presentations (February to the APC), March, April, May
- Presentation of Final Framework to Deans (April)
- Meetings with Individual Colleges and Departments
- UCC and General Education Approvals
- Communication Campaign in Place

2017
- UF Quest Student Town Hall Meeting (March 30)
- UF Quest Faculty Brainstorming Lunch (April 3)
- Request for Proposals for New Courses to Be Released

2018
- Course Proposals Due
- Selected Courses Announced
- Course Development Begins

2019
- UF Quest pilots
- UF Quest launches!
“...[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
“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