

Consolidated Faculty Questions – November 13, 2012

1. The University of Florida is a Land Grant Institution expected to contribute to meeting the challenge of feeding several billion additional people in the next 40 years, despite significant climate change and essential need for sustainability. Share with us your understanding of the land grant mission and your vision of its relevance to the university, state, nation and world.
2. What is your vision for how a 21st century flagship university could and should use interactive technology, including social media, to enhance its teaching, research and service within and outside the university?
3. Online education has increased significantly in recent years. How do you see a large, traditional university such as UF adapting to the increasing use of online education and finding the right balance between online and in-class instruction?
4. The intellectual freedom to conduct basic, curiosity-driven research of one's choice is an important component of academic freedom. This intellectual freedom is globally cited as a major reason why US academia attracts top intellectual talent. However, with decreasing state support and increasing costs, this freedom is being severely limited by the pressure to "bring in lots of funding," *regardless whether a faculty member's research requires it*. Do you intend to protect basic, curiosity-driven research? If so, how?
5. What steps can a university president take to promote a creative campus environment? More specifically, how can he/she integrate the arts into campus life across academic disciplines?
6. What is your position regarding the national (and FL) discussion to move from the current tenure model to a five-year renewable contract (or some other variation)? What are the mechanisms available to a university president to impose his/her position in this regard?
7. What do you believe is the role of Liberal Arts (including humanities as well as the sciences) in higher education? How do you think the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences fits into UF's overall vision and mission? Where do you envision CLAS ten years from now, and 25 years from now? How will you take them there?
8. Diversity and equity are key values at UF. What have you done to add meaningful diversity to leadership at your institution? If you become UF President, how would you implement and measure these values across the spectrum from leadership to student enrollment?
9. How would you ensure that current faculty are retained and that new faculty are attracted to joining the university?

Consolidated Faculty Questions – November 13, 2012

10. More and more students are taking courses online at UF. How do you foresee the deployment and use of technology to better engage students in our online classrooms over the next ten years?
11. What are your views of the UF having a self-insured health care plan (Gatorcare)?
12. Shared governance has matured at the University/senate level, what are your views on encouraging shared governance at the college/unit and department level?
13. The “corporate model” for university administration and management has gradually supplanted the more traditional collegial, or community of scholars, model. What do you see as the major challenges for incorporating the community of scholars into the “corporate model” in the areas of mission and goals, administrative structure, governance and accountability?
14. The University of Florida operates in an inherently political environment. As President, how would you address the political forces encountered by the University of Florida at the local, state or Federal level? Can you provide examples of how your prior experience would influence your approach to political issues affecting the university?
15. Graduate student education is an important part of the mission of the University, and often relies on external funding sources. Given the growing competition for such resources, how should the university utilize limited funds strategically to sustain its graduate programs?
16. Recently, responsibility-centered management (RCM) was adopted as the model by which financial resources are distributed at UF. What do you see as the strengths and problems of RCM as a financial management philosophy? What is your preferred budget model? Why?
17. What do you think are the most important things to do to retain faculty and foster their job satisfaction? How would you achieve these things?
18. Please explain your views on shared governance and what experience do you have with its implementation/progression?
19. How will you convince Florida voters and legislators that public higher education is an investment worth funding at higher than present levels?

Consolidated Faculty Questions – November 13, 2012

20. An increasing number of universities have increased their presence in other countries, such as China and the Middle East. Please share your vision for UF's internationalization.
21. Academic medical centers have been viewed as the nucleus of the U.S. health system, yet they face significant challenges such as funding reductions for clinical care, federal funding reductions for research, and difficulties in reorganizing to adapt to a rapidly-changing environment. Please share your vision for the steps the UF academic medical center could take to survive.
22. If you become the University of Florida President, after your tenure as President, what 3 actions would you like to be remembered for?
23. What thinkers or intellectuals have most influenced you in defining the purpose and structure of a great university?
24. Given the challenges universities face, share your strategies to bring UF into line with this definition.
25. All state universities, including UF, face a changing landscape of state support for higher education. Share your vision on how UF can progress and advance given this scenario.
26. UF has a successful system of shared governance, where the university president and administration participate actively with the faculty (in part as represented by the faculty senate) in shared governance. Many of us firmly believe that administrators and faculty make far better decisions when they are talking together than either make on their own. What has been your experience with shared governance, and how committed are you to it?
27. Could you describe for us an example of an institution that you believe provides a good model of an appropriate balance among undergraduate, professional and doctorate education?
28. Given the growing rate of college students with mental health concerns, what structures and supports do you believe are necessary in order for a Counseling center to appropriately aid these students?
29. Given your experiences, what vision do you have to encourage cross-disciplinary efforts throughout UF to better educate our students, to develop unique research avenues, and to improve our outreach efforts throughout the state.