THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

THE ACADEMIC PLAN 2011: REACH CAROLINA

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SUE ESTROFF
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Ron Strauss, Executive Associate Provost and Distinguished Professor, School of Dentistry
David C. Anderson Wiltshire, Graduate and Professional Student Federation Chief of Staff
CONSULTATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Campus-wide call for proposals: 85 received

Input meetings with: Deans (Health Affairs, Law, Journalism, Government, Social Work, College of Arts and Sciences, ILS), Graduate and Undergraduate Students, Faculty Council, FEC, CAC, Employee Forum, Department Chairs, Student Affairs, Senior and Associate Deans

Multiple drafts circulated for comment and revision
2011 ACADEMIC PLAN THEMES

1. Transformational academic experiences
2. Faculty prominence, composition, recruitment, development and scholarship
3. Interdisciplinary teaching, research, and public engagement
4. Equity and inclusion
5. Engaged scholarship with the profound challenges of state, national, and global communities
6. Extend Carolina’s global presence in research, teaching, and public service
TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

We propose initiatives that will continuously re-invigorate the academic experience at Carolina and transform our students’ intellectual skills, knowledge of the world, preparation for citizenship, and vision of our common future.

• Fully engage first-year undergraduate students in the academic life of the University by introducing them to unsolved problems, encouraging them to identify their research interests, and connecting them with faculty and graduate students who will inspire and mentor them.

• Challenge all undergraduate students to aspire to excellence and to accelerate their intellectual development.
To maintain and augment the University’s excellence in teaching, research, and service, Carolina must recruit, develop, and support faculty second to none. UNC-Chapel Hill faculty will always be the engine of the University’s research, the driver that generates the insights into the past and future and fresh approaches to the challenges and opportunities we face today.

- Bring UNC-Chapel Hill faculty salaries to at least the 80th percentile of those of our peer universities.

- Endorse and support faculty research and study assignment provisions across the University.
The opportunity to research and teach from a collaborative standpoint offers faculty, staff, and students the chance to engage in exploratory, boundary-crossing research to discover new and productive solutions to challenges and problems, and to open new pathways in scholarship. The future of interdisciplinary activities and programs to fulfill the University’s missions in research, education, and engagement requires that we reach agreement on our priorities, and provide the resources to realize them.

- Enhance facilities and technological systems for interdisciplinary activity.

- Coordinate and expedite collaborative teaching efforts across departments, schools, and disciplines.
EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Carolina aspires to be an increasingly inclusive educational institution that attracts, retains, and values talented people from all backgrounds, enabling them to contribute to the state of North Carolina and beyond as leaders, scholars, and educated citizens. The University must foster and maintain a welcoming and inclusive campus environment in which all individuals can achieve their fullest potential.

- New strategies for recruitment should be explored and implemented in order to increase the breadth of representation among Carolina faculty and administrators.

- Retention and graduation.
Faculty, staff, and students have worked on a wide range of issues, including rural poverty, clean water, health disparities, and the preservation of the history of the state and region. Engaged scholarship and productive community collaborations are facets of innovation that Carolina should increasingly support over the next decade. Engagement should be understood as scholarly, creative, or pedagogical activities for the public good, directed toward persons and groups outside the University.

- Include engaged scholarship and activities in tenure and promotion criteria for tenure-track and fixed-term faculty
- Encourage and support students’ engaged scholarship and activities.
EXTEND CAROLINA’S GLOBAL PRESENCE, TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Carolina aims to become a leading global university that prepares students for life in an interlinked world while addressing international regional problems. Education and collaborative research undertaken by UNC-Chapel Hill faculty and students with strategically selected partners around the world are the foundations for our ambitions.

• Increase the number of faculty with international expertise.

• Expand Carolina’s capacity to engage in global research.

• Augment global learning opportunities for students, especially through study abroad.
CHALLENGES FOR REACH CAROLINA

- Four years of significant budget reductions
- Enrollment increases
- Increased reliance on external funds
- Increase in limited-term faculty
- Faculty recruitment and retention
- Larger class size
INTELLECTUAL RESOURCES AND COMMITMENT

• Faculty ambition and aspiration to explore, imagine, and succeed
• Student talent, creativity, and motivation
• Leadership
• Commitment to our covenant with the citizens of North Carolina
2011 ACADEMIC PLAN: NEXT STEPS

Appoint Implementation Committee
Seek responses to the Plan from constituents
Set short- and long-term goals
Set priorities and examine feasibility for specific projects
Continue consultation with campus community
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS?