

**University College
Prospectus
1 April 2008**

Background

The Academic Strategic Plan as Goal 1 under the heading of Academic Success calls for the development of “a centralized organizational support structure, tentatively referred to as the University College, which enrolls and provides centralized, consistent and comprehensive academic support for specifically identified student populations.” The University College Committee was charged by the Office of the Provost with developing a plan for such a structure.

Committee Composition

The University College Committee is chaired by Dean Shearle Furnish and Associate Dean Jane Kestner, from the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (CLASS). Committee members include: Kevin Ball, Karen Becker, Cheryl Bosley, Joe Edwards, Julia Gergits, Alison Harmon, David Pollack, Laurie Paul, and Jim Ritter.

Additional Consultation

The chairs of the University College Committee initially looked at existing University College units at institutions around the country. The committee additionally sought input from individuals involved with academic support units on campus, including: Center for Student Progress, Math Assistance Center, Reading & Study Skills Center, and Writing Center. One meeting was devoted to input from current students, including Student Government representatives. A second independent committee was appointed by the Office of the Provost to address Goal 2 under Academic Success in the Academic Strategic Plan, Strengthening Advising. The chair of this committee served also on the University College Committee and one of the chairs of the University College Committee served on the Strengthening Advising Committee. This joint coordination facilitated the sharing of information and recommendations between the two committees.

- 1. Recommendation:** The committee should compose a Strategic Plan for the proposed University College, laying out:
 - Mission statement, including the factors prompting the proposed college
 - Goals
 - Administrative structure, including preliminary budget implications
 - Service populations of the student body
 - Time-line for evolution of the concept
 - Action plans

- 2. Recommendation:** The mission statement should encompass at least these functions of academic administration:
 - Student recruitment and retention

- Student orientation and engagement
 - Early registration
 - Advising
 - Liaison and coordination of student support services
 - Faculty support
- 3. Recommendation:** The goals should encompass at least these measures:
- Targeted improvement of first-year retention rates
 - Targeted rates of successful transition to majors in baccalaureate colleges
 - Encouragement of cohesion and mutual identity of students in the UC
 - Targeted improvement of six-year graduation rates in the university
 - Coordination of developmental education
- 4. Recommendation:** The structure of the University College should:
- Be approved in Senate
 - Be resolved by Board of Trustees
 - Report directly to Provost
 - Be led by a director, associate dean, dean, or associate provost, in no case necessarily newly hired for the purpose
 - Have a centrally located, visible office with modest staff and budget
- 5. Recommendation:** The University College should incorporate these student cohorts, each coming into the college on a schedule as indicated:
- Conditionally admitted (2010)
 - SB 140 students (2010)
 - Transfers on warning or probation (2010)
 - Developmental placements in two or three disciplines, or three disciplines alone, or placement in R&SK 1510 A and B, or 1510B alone (2011)
 - CLASS undetermined (2011)
 - All undetermined (2012)
- 6. Recommendation:** The concept of the University College should evolve over a period of years, as follows:
- 2008**
- Establish an investigative committee for common readership program
- 2009**
- Implement and continue at regular intervals advising workshops for interested and solicited faculty
 - Establish Help Desks in highly visible locations
 - Implement revised SOAR
 - Enhance development activities for professional advisors
 - Inaugurate first-year experience events
 - >speakers
 - >conferences
 - >competitions

2010

- Pilot modular orientation course of large and small sections
- Establish Office of the University College
- Effect the enrollment into University College of Conditionally Admitted, SB 140, and Transfer on Probation or Warning
- Establish a formalized follow-up event for SOAR

2011

- Effect enrollment or transfer into UC of developmental placements in two or three disciplines, or three disciplines alone, or placement in R&SK 1510 A and B, or in 1510B alone
- Effect enrollment or transfer of CLASS undetermined into UC
- Increase sections of modular orientation course
- Increase first-year experience events
- Establish common readership program if recommended

2012

- Continue first-year experience events and readership program
- Effect enrollment or transfer of all YSU undetermined into UC
- Pilot modest number of University College second-year seminars
- Inaugurate a University College faculty
 - >orientation teachers
 - >UC faculty advisors
 - >UC second-year seminar teachers

2013

- Formalize University College second-year seminars