



The College of Undergraduate Studies Fall 2023 Dean Meeting

Reintroduction

- Laurel Richmond | External Legislative Assistant | sgaela@ucf.edu
- Akhila Damarla
- Agastya Mittal

Open Floor for the Dean

- Meet again in February to follow-up on initiatives
- Uncoupling the ability to earn a certificate with the degree
 - Proposing ability that certificate will be posted to transcript before graduating
 - Important to make students competitive, because other students at other institutions have this ability
 - Transfer students transfer because they feel they don't have any other options, but this would enable students who have completed an AA to only complete a certificate
 - Unfortunately a hand full of students who don't want to graduate by adding a certificate right before graduation, and the timely academic policy only acts as a 3-legged stool (change major after earning 75+ hours, advising component, and auto graduate a student who has met all of the degree requirements)
 - If earning a certificate has to happen with a degree, people can use that to not graduate, but when uncoupled students can be graduated
 - Requires students to see an advisor after earning 75+ credit hours if they want to add a major
 - College for all undergraduate students at UCF
 - Vice-Provost deal with policy, overseeing all academic policy and alignment, dual enrollment, and general education program
- In discussion about a change in relations of D and F
 - University can automatically convert the first D and F earned in a GEP to no credit
- Hoping to eliminate C- grade
 - Many faculty thought they were being helpful when they gave C-
 - But students still have to repeat the course

Initiatives

- Increase Advertisement of the College of Undergraduate Studies
 - Increase advertisement of what the college has to offer
 - **Dean Response: We have some social media but can be doing better. Temporarily not using "Twitter" because as you know it's not quite stable yet. Lots of entities across campus are waiting to see if the Twitter situation settles, so ramping up visibility on Instagram. Have a lot of information on Website. Started issuing Newsletters to students,**



- alumni, and faculty and staff with updates. Want to do more. Open to whatever suggestions.
- Damarla: more connections with RSOs.
- Deans Response: Can you send a list of RSOs. Just hired a new grad assistant focused on engagement, connecting with various RSOs connected to the college and providing support to recruit transfers and new students to the college.
- Damarla: I only know a limited list. Want to expand knowledge regarding interdisciplinary studies.
- Deans Response: that's a great place to start. Talking to Dean German from COM on how we can increase our connection. In the spring hosting a showcase going beyond research, talking about service learning, internships, and studying away. Probably going to happen in March.
- Mittal: Do research, so nice to show it off. Nice to represent the college through the different research. Career Fair and Grad Studies Fair would be a good way to connect with students and tie in developing more graduate studies opportunities.
- DEI Legislation Impact on Degrees in the College of Undergraduate Studies
 - Diversity Studies Leadership Track
 - Integrative General Studies
 - Dean Response: Thus far no impact on diversity studies leadership track, only looking at GEP core. board formed by BOG that reviewed the courses and sent recommendations. Have until tomorrow to provide feedback. Committee will make adjustments accordingly. In the future a similar committee will look at all curriculum. Have been informed that our program will not be impacted by the state law. Have proposed more curriculum and will hopefully announce by the end of the semester.
- Class Accessibility
 - Increase online courses availability
 - Specifically for science courses, since they are limited in availability (both time and space)
 - More online options give students more flexibility for internships and/or work to garner more experience in the field
 - Increase in-person courses availability
 - Specifically for environmental philosophy and ethics classes, because face-to-face modality encourages more debate and critical engagement
 - Dean Response: Started some conversations with Interim Associate Dean, because we are aware about the demand, and that there are so many virtual courses and not too many in-person. We are hiring 2 new faculty members in Environmental Studies, and are requesting to hire 2 more faculty - 1 for interdisciplinary studies and 1 for gender studies. Our goal is to hire 4 more in the next 5 years. Will continue discussions how to create a better balance.
- Accessibility to Internships
 - Not advertised
 - Advisor Amy Van Epps use to send out opportunities, but she left



- Re-establish sending out emails with opportunities
- Continue emails from advisors that promote opportunities
- Establish a database - a one-stop for all opportunities
- **Dean Response:** been discussing with interim associate dean. Last academic year drafted a college strategic plan, where it addresses internships and research opportunities within the College. Opportunities for specific outlets for graduate info (post grad opportunities) working to make a series of workshops and seminars geared towards the College regarding post grad opportunities with AP. To support that, students need to have financial resources - we are fortunate to start a vice provost and deans fund to aid students (first started during pandemic for emergencies, but we now want to use the money in different ways - first devise a research support form available to all students within the college to request funds that enhance academic opportunities - student research, conference presentation, summer research training, internship support, out of state service learning opportunities, research support for organized research opportunities, and equipment for student research supplies)
- **Damarla:** Are you able to apply for funding if it's for another college but you're in the College of Undergraduate Studies?
Dean Response: Yes!
- **Damarla:** Wanted to add that SG gives funding for conference.
- **Dean Response:** I know, but sometimes they're more expensive. So, when students have exhausted all their resources and still need some support, this fund seeks to provide additional resources.
- **Damarla:** How do you plan on advertising?
- **Deans Response:** newsletter, social media, and LinkedIn
- **Deans Speak at Open Forum Once a Semester**
 - To provide an update to Senate on the initiatives
 - **Dean Response:** Yes! Reach out to me.