State of Academic Affairs

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Professor and Provost

Provost Meeting
January 10, 2014
What defines a global research university?
Innovative Teaching
Robust Research
Community Engagement

Outstanding people in a culture promoting innovation.
Goal of the Office of the Provost

Enhance the quality of our academic programs.

Ensure their sustainability
Drivers for Change

• Enhancing academic quality and reputation
• Students’ demand for more rigor
• A changing consumer market
• Utilization of disruptive technologies
• Opportunity to build niche programs
Drivers for Change

- State and federal funding challenges
  - Pressure for prioritization of resources
- Public’s demand for access, affordability and accountability
Forbes (1/6/14)

- Higher Education
  - Ground Zero for Disruption
    - Product does not work
    - Ridiculous Cost
    - Antiquated Business Model
Reasons for Optimism

• Transparency and accountability
• New technology applications
• Public-private partnerships
• Emphasis on outcomes and employability
• Globalization and student mobility
Comparison Groups

• Peer group
  – Rutgers University
  – University of Connecticut
  – University of Georgia
  – University of Kentucky
  – University of Tennessee

• Peer-aspirant group
  – Indiana University
  – University of Maryland
  – University of Missouri
  – University of North Carolina
  – University of Virginia

Data from:
The Top American Research Universities, 2010 Annual Report
The Center for Measuring University Performance
by E.D. Capaldi, John V. Lombardi, Craig W. Abbey, Diane D. Craig
Undergraduate Enrollment

• Freshman, Transfer, Retention Pipelines
• Bridge Programs
• Reputation of a National University
• Columbia and the regional campuses
SAT Scores

2013 Undergraduate Enrollment Estimate
SAT Scores

• South Carolina Honors College
• Capstone Scholars
• Strategic use of scholarships and need-based aid
• Reputation of different degree programs
SC Honors College

- #1 ranked Public Honors Programs
  - Strength of curriculum: 440+ Honors courses/ year with average class size of 14.
- Freshman to sophomore retention rate 97.4%
  - Peers: Columbia, U Penn, and Yale at 99%; Brown, Cal Tech, Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and six other schools at 98%.
- Incoming class of 430 students
  - Largest and most accomplished in history.
  - Average SAT 1435
- Graduating “With Honors“ requirements
Freshman-Sophomore Retention Rate

Retention Rate

Cohort

USC Columbia
USC Target
Peers
Aspirants

Year
Freshman-Sophomore Retention Rates

- University 101
- USC Connect
- Standardized Advisement
- Cross-College Advisement
Focus on stronger advising systems

- Critical to student retention, progression, graduation, and placement

- Online advisor scheduling system implemented fall 2013 (SARS-Grid)
  - Defined expectations for advisors and students
  - Expand advisor discussions beyond course selection
  - Assist students with beyond-the-classroom learning opportunities

- Emphasis on cross-college collaboration
  - Improve coordination for students changing majors
  - Strengthen support for transfer students
6-year Graduation Rate

Graduation Rate

Cohort

Year

USC Columbia
USC Target
Peers
Aspirants
On Your Time Graduation

✓ Eight sessions over 12 weeks last summer (1-12 weeks in length)
✓ Summer language immersion institutes (2-year coursework in 8 weeks)
✓ Business institute for non-business majors
  ✓ Marketing, Management, Accounting and Economics (12 weeks)
✓ High demand math and science courses (6 weeks)
✓ One-week labs this week (over 200 students)
No. 8: Doctoral Degrees

- USC Columbia
- USC Targets
- Peers
- Aspirants


2013 Doctorate Degree Estimate
Scholarly Productivity

[Diagram showing various metrics related to scholarly productivity, including:
- National Median
- Articles
- Awards
- Citations
- Grants
- Conference Proceedings
- Conference Proceedings per Faculty Member
- Total Conference Proceedings
- Total Awards
- Awards per Faculty Member
- Number of Faculty Members With an Award
- Percentage of Faculty With an Award
- Total Citations
- Percentage of Faculty With a Citation
- Citations per Faculty Member
- Number of Faculty Members With a Citation
- Citations per Publication
- Total Articles
- Percentage of Faculty With an Article
- Total Number of Grants
- Articles per Faculty Member
- Percentage of Faculty With a Grant
- Dollars per Grant
- Grant Dollars per Faculty Member
- Percentage of Faculty With a Conference Proceeding
- Total Grant Dollars
- Number of Faculty Members With a Grant
- Number of Faculty With a Conference Proceeding]
How are other universities using the data?

**Benchmarking** - How do we compare to other universities at the discipline level?

**Discipline peer selection** – Who do we really look like?

**Academic unit review** – Strengths and weaknesses

**Faculty review** – Who are the stars? Support for review team, leadership service, retention decisions

**Where is the money?** – Are we getting our share of available grant funds? Opportunities for diversification?

**Strategic planning** – Achieving institutional objectives

**Strategic resource allocation** – Investing for excellence in targeted areas—cluster hires, team science

**Custom analysis** – program, dept, systems, other academic units—what would we look like?
University of South Carolina
Compared to 213 public institutions

- 55th Largest institution based on number of faculty
- 46th Largest producer of scholarly books
- 61st Largest total peer reviewed journal articles
- 54th Largest in honorific awards received
- The University of South Carolina ranks 39th among public comprehensive doctoral universities in the US based on Academic Analytics’ Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index (FSPI).
University of South Carolina
Institutional comparison
Priorities for 2014

• Faculty and research
  – Continue FRI program
  – Identify and support priorities for scholarly activities
    • Small number of Research Collaboratives
    • Fixed term operation and expectations
    • Financial support and infrastructure
Priorities for 2014

• Undergraduate Students
  – Support and expand recruiting
    • Departmental recruiting
    • Stronger faculty involvement
  – Strengthen advising and career counseling
    • Define expectations and provide technical support
    • Employability!!!
Priorities for 2014

• Teaching Innovations
  – Expand On-Your-Time Initiative
    • Bottleneck courses
    • Additional cross-college packages
    • New pools of summer students
  – Expand use of technology
    • Hybrid courses
    • Flip classrooms
Priorities for 2014

• Graduate Students
  – Doctoral education
    • Continuing support of Presidential Fellows
    • Recognition of important doctoral placements
  – Masters Students and Specialized Certificates
    • Coordinated recruiting
    • Niche markets in other countries