

## FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

### CHARGE FROM THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO THE *AD HOC* POSITIONING AND ALIGNMENT TASK FORCE AUGUST 27, 2010

The *ad hoc* Positioning and Alignment Task Force (PATF) is charged with:

- Reviewing the positioning and alignment of the University's five colleges, their constituent units, and academic programs; and
- Providing a report describing this review, including findings and suggestions, to the Provost by November 23, 2010.

Within the scope of this charge, the PATF may suggest movements of programs, departments, divisions, and schools as it deems appropriate including the renaming or dissolution of existing colleges and the creation of new ones.

The document "A Process for Obtaining Focused Input Regarding Positioning and Alignment of Academic Instructional Units" will serve as a guide for the PATF's work including the hosting of open, drop-in style conversations to gather feedback regarding positioning and alignment.

The following questions related to positioning and alignment will guide the PATF's work:

- Where are the natural synergies among and across disciplines and academic programs?
- How are these synergies impacted by
  - disciplinary methods, techniques, and problems;
  - intellectual habits of the mind;
  - disciplinary 'ways of knowing;' and
  - the acquisition of knowledge?
- How can natural synergies be best utilized to
  - promote student learning,
  - enhance instructional delivery, and
  - support scholarship and intellectual inquiry?
- Which academic alignments will place the University in the best position to accommodate anticipated growth and facilitate implementation of new degree programs?
- How can the University best position itself within the complex and rapidly expanding field of higher education?
- How can the University's special emphases on environmental sustainability and service learning be more holistically actualized?
- How can the University become more intentional regarding the equitable allocation of resources?

## CONTEXT

As described in the FGCU Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 and the FGCU 2010 Work Plan for the Board of Governors, numerous convergent factors impact the University's development including:

- Growth in number of students (20,000 students by 2018);
- Growth in number of academic programs (currently 51 undergraduate and 32 graduate majors; these numbers will increase by approximately 15 undergraduate and 8 graduate majors by 2018); and
- Greater student success and retention.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The PATF will hold meetings as it deems necessary to accomplish this charge.
- The PATF will engage its charge in a transparent manner.
- Feedback received from Academic Affairs faculty and staff will be communicated to the chair of the PATF via reports from facilitators present at the drop-in conversations, through the use of the dedicated website, and via other mechanisms as appropriate.
- The work of the PATF will be concluded upon the acceptance of the PATF report by the Provost.
- The PATF will receive staff support from the Office of the Provost and support from any unit in the University, as deemed necessary by the PATF.