1.0 Academic Mission of the University

PURPOSE

The purpose of this element is to describe the present and future academic mission of the University, which provides the basis for the physical recommendations of the Comprehensive Campus Master Plan.

(1) DATA REQUIREMENTS. This element shall be based on the following data or information:

a) University Mission Statement as described in the most recent edition of the State University System (SUS) of Florida Master Plan.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) is an 1890 land-grant institution dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, resolution of complex issues and the empowerment of citizens and communities. The University provides a student-centered environment consistent with its core values. The faculty is committed to educating students at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and professional levels, preparing graduates to apply their knowledge, critical thinking skills and creativity in their service to society.

FAMU’s distinction as a doctoral/research institution will continue to provide mechanisms to address emerging issues through local and global partnerships. Expanding upon the University’s land-grant status, it will enhance the lives of constituents through innovative research, engaging cooperative extension, and public service. While the University continues its historic mission of educating African Americans, FAMU embraces persons of all races, ethnic origins and nationalities as lifelong members of the university community.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University holds the following values essential to the achievement of the university’s mission:
- Scholarship
- Excellence
- Openness
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Diversity
- Service
- Fairness
- Courage
- Integrity
- Respect
- Collegiality
- Freedom
- Ethics
- Shared Governance
b) Description of University Service Area(s).

The FAMU service area within the State of Florida includes the counties of Baker, Calhoun, Columbia, Dixie, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Suwannee, Taylor, Union and Wakulla.

c) Supplemental policies of the President or the Board of Governors (BOG) defining the University's Mission.

Academic Affairs is committed to Florida A&M University's motto, "Excellence with Caring." Through thirteen colleges and schools, the Environmental Sciences Institute, Instructional Media Center and the University Libraries, Academic Affairs offer 62 fields of study at the baccalaureate level, 42 master's programs and 11 doctoral level programs. With a highly qualified faculty of 645, the University is devoted to the discovery, dissemination, enhancement, refinement and preservation of knowledge.

A coeducational, land-grant, comprehensive/doctoral University (with major programs accredited by appropriate state, regional and national accrediting agencies) FAMU encourages and supports innovative teaching, research and public service, enhanced by informational and instructional technology and distance learning. It also provides service through cooperative extension, technology transfer and public service programs to ever broadening, diversified constituencies. While the University will continue its mission of meeting the educational needs of African Americans and other ethnic minorities, it will also work assiduously to provide educational opportunities for all racial, religious and national groups without regards to age, sex or disability, who have the potential to benefit from a sound education.

Designed to expand minority participation in graduate study in the sciences, engineering, mathematics, and technology, FAMU will increasingly develop new academic programs and research productivity through the Center of Excellence with Ph.D. programs in biology, chemistry, mathematics, computer science and agriculture.

FAMU encourages the application and enrollment of all qualified students and, as a member of SUS, adheres to the following Non-discrimination Policy of the Florida Board of Governors:

"No University in the State University System shall discriminate against any student, member of the faculty, or other University personnel because of race, creed, color, sex, or national origin."
(2) ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS. This element shall provide, at a minimum, the following analyses:

a) A description of how the University's Mission has changed (or not) since its inception.

The University was founded in 1887, thus making it one of the three oldest institutions of higher education in the State of Florida. The University was founded as a normal school for Blacks with a land-grant Mission. As a land-grant institution, the University was authorized to offer teacher education programs to prepare Blacks for careers in education. In the tradition of land-grant institutions, the programs offered were in the disciplines of vocational and agricultural education. During the 1950s, the institution gained University status and the degree offerings began to expand and diversify. In 1982, the University implemented the PhD in pharmacy, its first degree program at that level. The Mission was revised again in 1983 to include graduate study and research as priorities. In the current Mission, graduate study and research continue to be among the University's highest priorities as it strives to become a doctorate-granting University. Other priorities of the University are providing excellence in undergraduate education, meeting the educational needs of Blacks and other ethnic minorities, and addressing critical needs of the state and nation.

b) A description of how the University's Mission has changed since the last Master Plan was prepared.

Since the first mandated Comprehensive Master Plan was adopted in 1995 to the current 2010-2020 Master Plan Update, FAMU has continued to provide optimum learning in an environment that allows each student to utilize the latest technology available throughout their educational careers. In view of the impact of rapidly developing technology, the University strengthened and will continue to strengthen its programs that prepare its students, particularly African American and other ethnic minorities, for careers in international affairs. During the last five years, the University achieved a national reputation for attracting high-achieving students. It will increase its efforts to provide attractive and stimulating student activities complementary to formal classroom instruction and academic performance. Among these will be a structured honors program, an artist and lecture series, intramural and intercollegiate athletics, and student organizations. Specific attention will be focused on the health of students and on maintaining conditions of wellness therefore ensuring an optimal quality of life in the university community.
c) A description of how the University fulfills or accomplishes the roles established by the Board of Regents (BOR) for the State University System (SUS).

The University fulfills and accomplishes the roles established by the Florida Board of Governors through the leadership of the President. However, the philosophy that governs the University includes the broadest feasible representation and participation of all segments of the University community. This system of shared governance includes the Executive Council, the Faculty Senate, and other committees and councils appointed by the President and Vice Presidents.

Moreover, the general faculty is the foundation of the University. The faculty is responsible for instruction, research and public service, and promotes the educational Mission and goals of the institution and the State of Florida.