3 COMPREHENSIVE STANDARDS

3.1 Institutional Mission

3.1.1 The mission statement is current and comprehensive, accurately guides the institution’s operations, is periodically reviewed and updated, is approved by the governing board, and is communicated to the institution’s constituencies. (Comprehensive Statement of Mission)

X Compliance  ____ Non-compliance  ____ Not Applicable

Narrative

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University’s (FAMU) mission statement is current and comprehensive, accurately guides the University’s operations, is periodically reviewed and updated, is approved by its governing board, and is communicated to the University’s constituencies.

The current mission statement [1] is comprehensive and accurately guides the institution’s operations. It states:

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) is 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. (Adopted by the FAMU Board of Trustees, October 15, 2009, June 8, 2017) [2] [3]

Mission Statement Review Process

During the 2008-2009 strategic planning process, the University President appointed a university-wide committee to conduct a comprehensive review of the 2004-05 to 2013-14 Strategic Plan, which included the Mission, Vision and Core Values Subcommittee [4] [5] [6]. The committee worked in conjunction with the University community. Through a comprehensive planning process involving University
administrators, faculty, staff and students, a series of updates to the FAMU Board of Trustees (BOT) occurred [7] [8]. The process involved trustee and student surveys, as well as presentations from each major campus division and unit about its opportunities and challenges. Further, the committee discussed and incorporated the State University System Board of Governors’ (BOG) Strategic Plan [9] into the University Strategic Plan [10]. The University’s current mission statement was developed and approved as part of the University’s 2008-2009 strategic planning process. The current mission statement was adopted by the Board of Trustees on October 15, 2009 [2], along with the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan [10].

The current mission and vision statements along with the University Strategic Plan were reviewed in 2015 by the University’s Strategic Planning Task Force. Again, in 2017, University’s Strategic Planning Workgroup and University Board of Trustees (BOT) reviewed the University’s Strategic Plan, mission and vision statements, and retained the University’s current mission statement. The FAMU BOT and current administration recently concluded the strategic planning review, which included reviewing the mission statement and making revisions to the Strategic Plan after being vetted through a comprehensive University stakeholder process. The mission statement remained unchanged. However, the University’s Strategic Plan was updated along with a new vision statement, which was approved by the BOT on June 8, 2017 [3] [11].

Additionally, the mission and vision statements are reviewed annually as part of the state mandated Annual Work Plan [12] [13] [14] required by the Florida Board of Governors Regulation 2.002 [15]. The BOG requires each university to develop an annual work plan based on the university’s distinct mission and articulate how each university contributes to the system’s overall mission and vision. The annual work plan must be approved by each university BOT prior to submission to the BOG.

FAMU’s mission statement continues to align with the Board of Governors Strategic Plan [16] [17] approved by the BOG during its November 9-10, 2011 meeting [18] and amended on March 17, 2016 [19]. The BOG Strategic Plan identifies a shared mission of the State University System:

The mission of the State University System of Florida is to provide undergraduate, graduate and professional education, research, and public service of the highest quality through a coordinated system of institutions of higher learning, each with its own mission and collectively dedicated to serving the needs of a diverse state and global society [20].

Communication of Mission Statement

The mission statement of Florida A&M University is published in the University’s Strategic Plan [11], in the Catalog [21], in the Annual Work Plan [12] [13] [14], and on the
Mission Statement and Institutional Function

The mission statement sets the tone for all University operations. It is central to and the driving force behind the funding priorities as well as the current University strategic plan. To put FAMU’s mission statement into operation, FAMU Rising, the Strategic Plan 2017-2022 delineates six (6) strategic priorities listed below [11]:

1. Exceptional Student Experience
2. Excellent and Renowned Faculty
3. High Impact Research, Commercialization, Outreach, and Extension Services
4. Transformative Alumni, Community, and Business Engagement
5. First-Class Business Infrastructure
6. Outstanding Customer Experiences

The collective input of FAMU’s community of stakeholders nationwide has culminated in FAMU’s strategic roadmap – “FAMU Rising” [11]. By focusing on and executing these six (6) mission-driven strategic priorities and corresponding strategies all academic and administrative units, FAMU Rising will be the ultimate outcome. See Core Requirement 2.4’s section on Mission [23] in action and Core Requirement 2.5’s section on Strategic Planning for more details [24].

The University’s comprehensive assessment process is the vehicle that enables the University to collect the information necessary to continuously guide improvements in students’ learning outcomes, administrative support services, educational support services, research and service. It also is part of institutional effectiveness and a validation that the University is effectively accomplishing its mission. Also, see Core Requirement 2.5 [24] section on annual work plan and Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1 [25].

Summary

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.1.1. The University's mission statement is current and comprehensive, accurately guides the University’s operations, is periodically reviewed and updated, is approved by its governing board, is in alignment with the mission of the State University System of Florida, and is communicated to the University’s constituencies.