Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

Strategic Plan
College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

2013-2014

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Dean

**The College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities
Strategic Plan**

Mission:

The College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities is committed to excellence in scholarship, research and service. It provides a supportive academic learning environment, rigorous research, diversity in curriculum and student population, collaborative/experiential learning, and the continuing development of an ethical and professional disposition in faculty and students, coupled with life –long learning for the development of responsive and responsible citizens. The core tenets of the College foster the development of strong healthy individuals and strong global communities prepared to meet the challenges and embrace the opportunities of the 21st century.

Vision:

It is the vision of the college of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities to be recognized as one of the nation's leading social science, humanities, and liberal/fine arts programs committed to teaching, research and service at both the undergraduate levels. As we continue to plan and grow the quality and number of 21st Century academically relevant programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, the College will expand upon its commitment to providing opportunities for underserved and diverse populations while serving as a model of scholarship, excellence, and caring.

Core Values:

Core values and principles of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University are embraced and infused throughout the collective work College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities: scholarship, excellence, openness, fiscal responsibility accountability, service, fairness, integrity, respect, collegiality, freedom of expression, ethics, and shared governance.

STRATEGIC INITATIVES

Below are the specific strategic initiatives, with their respective goals, strategies, and performance measures

Goal 1: *Strengthen and enhance the quality of faculty in the College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities.*

Strategy 1.1 Recruit exceptional faculty. Strengthen efforts to recruit diverse faculty holding terminal degrees who are actively engaged in innovative, rigorous and sponsored research, committed to excellence in instruction, and demonstrating a public service and /or building healthy citizens and communities.

Strategy 1.2 <u>Strengthen support for the faculty</u>**.** Develop opportunities for research, instruction and professional development. Create opportunities for support and professional peer-mentoring for early-career faculty. Allow faculty the opportunity to choose to focus their career tracks in the areas of research or instruction with equitable opportunities for promotion, tenure, recognition and reward.

Strategy 1.3 <u>Improve research infrastructure</u>. Improve financial and staff support for grant proposal preparation. Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration; hire/dedicate staff to assist with proposal development, and strengthen relationship with Office of Sponsored Programs to work directly with seeking sponsored research.

Goal 2. *Strengthen and enhance the quality of student learning*

> **Situational Context**: The College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities is committed to excellence in teaching and instruction utilizing active-learning pedagogies positively correlated with increased motivation, retention and graduation rates among students.

Strategy 2.1 <u>Improve student learning outcomes</u>**.** Identify and implement effective and academically rigorous pedagogies focusing on problem-based/experiential learning, critical thinking, writing-across-the-curriculum, respect for diversity and innovative technologies. Promote multi-modal communication (web-based, interactive text, art, music, etc.) skills to enhance critical thinking and stimulate dialogue.

Strategy 2.2 <u>Enhance Experiential and Service Learning</u>. Promote experiential learning and expand internship, service learning/civic engagement, study abroad, and research opportunities. All academic programs in the social sciences and the arts will be encouraged to provide students with significant and meaningful experiential opportunities to strengthening their academic portfolios and thereby their prospects for graduate study and professional careers upon graduation.

Strategy 2.3 <u>Strengthen student advisement and mentoring</u>**.** Promote excellence in academic advisement and mentoring by developing "promising" practices and establishing, college-wide initiatives and standards for students and faculty.

Strategy 2.4 <u>Expand research opportunities for undergraduates</u>**.** Provide undergraduate students with opportunities to present research and in professional meetings.

Goal 3   *Promote Online Instruction*

Situational Context: It is our goal to facilitate student learning, retention and graduation through the incorporation of technology into courses, fully on-line or hybrid. Online and or E-learning lowers the barriers of access to a higher education. It is a medium of instruction with which many of our students are familiar comfortable.

Strategy 3.1. Develop college-wide guidelines for the implementation of on-line and hybrid.

Strategy 3.2. Increase the number of courses and degree programs utilizing the E-Learning.

Strategy 3.3 Provide faculty with training, resources, and support to develop and implement E-Learning in their classroom.

Goal 4   *Enhance Graduate Student Support and Degree Programs*

Situational Context: Improve time-to-degree completion and strengthen graduate education and global impact.

Strategy 4.1 Work closely with the Graduate school to increase stipend levels, develop thesis fellowships and summer and travel research support.

Strategy 4.2 Actively recruit potential graduate students via campus visits and professional meetings.

Strategy 4.3 Implement a regular review of Ph.D. programs and establish a Council of Graduate Directors to promote cross-program and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Strategy 4.4 New and expanded graduate degree programs in the social science and the arts