

Members present: William Vencill, Rob Hoyt, Philip Greenspan, Betty Jean Craige, Irwin Bernstein, Alison Alexander, Lonnie Brown, Tom Jackson, Jorge Atilas, Jim Prestegard, Ryan Nesbit, Ann Crowther, Shannon Scott, Danny Sniff, Steve Dempsey, Kyle Tschepikow, Rehan Khan

Meeting began at 1:32 pm.

The entire meeting consisted of a brainstorming session. The first question asked was: “What is unique about the University of Georgia?”

A broad discussion concerning unique attributes, current strengths, emerging strengths, and areas that need to be focused on was held.

The uniqueness of the medical school partnership with the Medical School of Georgia was discussed. The group agreed that the medical school initiative allows UGA to build on existing strengths in the life sciences, journalism, environmental health, ecology, public administration, and public service and outreach as well as the emerging strength in public health to have a unique set of offerings to students and to be in unique position to improve the health of people in Georgia through training of medical professionals, research in biomedicine, and outreach of information on public health to the state. It was also mentioned that for faculty in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Cellular Biology, the addition of a medical campus allows for them to match colleagues at other institutions that has been absent at UGA.

There was a mention that UGA can use some of its known strengths to leverage partnerships and connection to other universities that benefit UGA and others. An example of this is the number of institutions that want to partner with UGA’s Complex Carbohydrate Research Center (CCRC). There are organizations that UGA could partner with in the state and region that we have not done as much with in the past (e.g. Center for Disease Control).

A strength of UGA is its study abroad program and the success in promoting an international experience for undergraduate students. A question was asked on how UGA could build upon this success. One suggestion was to increase the opportunities for graduate students to have an international experience. A suggestion was made that UGA needs more development activities to raise funds to increase the opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to have an international experience. These increased opportunities could involve the whole campus community, particularly those in the humanities.

A discussion on UGA study abroad programs was held. The focus in the past has been for UGA faculty to have programs where they take students on study abroad programs and residential

study abroad programs such as those in Cortona and Costa Rico. Perhaps UGA should partner with institutions abroad to jointly offer programs.

Another unique aspect of UGA has been a lack of a medical or engineering school. UGA is probably the only land-grant university without both. The group agreed that the UGA needs a school of engineering to be a truly comprehensive university. A school of engineering would provide more than the training of undergraduate students in the areas of engineering. It would also provide a source of collaboration for programs in the life sciences and many other programs offered by UGA and would extend the UGA's public service and outreach efforts.

The television station recently purchased by the Grady College of Journalism makes UGA one of the few institutions with a television license and the community focus on WNEG. UGA will be able to use the broadcasting bandwidth to deliver outreach, research, and instruction to the whole state. This ability will enhance ongoing health initiatives at UGA. One concern here is the development of programming. At present, if a particular unit wants programming on the television station, they must pay for it and many are unwilling or unable to do so. Perhaps, seed money will be needed to develop programming.

Another unique aspect of UGA is the strong collaboration of instruction, research. Examples include CURO program where undergraduates receive research training and service learning courses where students are engaged in the community as part of the undergraduate education. The Archway Project which engages UGA research and public service for community development just received a Kellogg Award.

A discussion was held on the uniqueness of the Odum School of Ecology and how its presence is fostering collaboration among many campus units (agriculture, forestry, etc.) for sustainability efforts. If UGA wants to improve its environmental sustainability, it will require collaborative efforts such as these to design buildings and systems that reduce the universities energy and water use.

By statute, newly elected officials in the state of Georgia are required to undergo training from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. This is a unique situation with the University of Georgia and allows the university to have an impact across the state in many ways.

A discussion was held on how UGA could increase the number of graduate students. The general discussion centered on the perception that at present, there are not enough incentives for units across campus to have graduate students. The revenue models incentivize undergraduate education at the expense of graduate education.

Finally, a discussion was held on faculty and technology. The discussion centered around the thought that what ever the major goals of UGA are, an investment in increasing faculty numbers was essential. Excellent research, instruction, and public service require faculty. Tenure-track faculty numbers have been static over the past ten years with the addition of many new programs. In addition, investment in technology to support faculty research, instruction, and public service has been lacking at UGA. To move forward in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, UGA will need to reinvest in technology. One example of this is distance education. UGA has lagged in its involvement in distance education. If UGA is to increase its access to citizens of the state, meet the demands of non-traditional students, and expand transfer of research and public service, technology investment will be required.

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.