Academic Excellence Goals for the University of Vermont

A Presentation to the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources Committee

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February 7, 2014
1. Increase the percentage of undergraduate students graduating in four years

Target: 75%
Current: 66% (Fall 2009 entering class)
Trend: (52% Fall 2000 entering class)

Actions: Advising and Student Services
          High-tech/high-touch
          Expanded summer offerings
          IBB

Comparator average: 67%
2. Improve undergraduate student retention, years 1-4

(Year 1-2 shown here)

Target: 90%
Current: 85% (Fall 2012 entering class)
Trend: (85% for Fall 2008 class)

Actions: Advising and Student Services
          High-tech/high-touch
          IBB

Comparator average: 91% (Year 1-2)
3. Improve student advising, both academic and pre-professional/career

**Advising***

- **Target:** 75% (excellent/good rating by seniors)
- **Current:** 66%
- **Trend:** (68% in 2008)

**Acquired job and work-related knowledge/skills***

- **Target:** 70%
- **Current:** 61%
- **Trend:** (73% in 2008)

**Actions:**
- Faculty Senate advising initiative
- Career Success Action Plan
- IBB

*Source: National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)*
4. Increase interdisciplinary teaching, research and scholarship

**Actions:**
- Removing barriers
- Vice President for Research
- Graduate College Dean
- IBB
5. Expand programmatic offerings to include distance and hybrid modes of instructional delivery

**Actions:** Guiding Principles
- Removing barriers
- Strategic partnerships (internal and external)
- IBB
6. Increase research and scholarship in areas that generate high impact, recognition and visibility

**Actions:**

Transdisciplinary Research Initiatives

- Complex Systems
- Food Systems
- Neuroscience, Behavior and Health

Humanities Center

Institute for the Environment
7. Increase domestic diversity and grow international student enrollments across the University

Domestic Diversity
Current: 10.5% ALANA
Trend: ↑ (5.5% in Fall 2002)

International Students
Current: 201 UG, 187 G
Trend: ↑ (63 UG, 183 G; Fall 2008)
Target: 5-7%

Actions:
Domestic: Aggressive recruiting beyond NE
Intern’l: Global Gateway Program
US-Sino, US-Nigeria

Comparator average: 27% ALANA
8. Increase enrollments in graduate and professional programs

Current: Master’s 791; doctoral 526
Trend: master’s (868 in Fall 2008)  
    doctoral (516 in Fall 2008)
Targets: ? % (M/D/P; C/O/H)

Actions: Increase extramural research
Add high-demand degree programs
Hybrid/online programs
Remove barriers
IBB

Comparator average: UG/G ratio of 4:1-3:1
“Anytime faculty and departments think and re-think about how they reach, engage, and excite students—it's a good thing.”