

Cascaded Plan for Support Units – Waypoint 1 July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2019

Support Unit Name: Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives:

Long term focus which supports the University of Idaho Strategic Plan:

(Narrative including which university goal(s) will be advanced and supported by the unit's highest priority activities over the next nine years and a brief description of anticipated tactics deployed to help the University of Idaho meet goal(s))

The Vice Provost of Academic Initiatives has several long-range activities to position the University of Idaho to address key aspects of the university's strategic plan. First, the university-wide curriculum design will be evaluated for effectiveness in ensuring academic rigor and student success. There are two primary aspects to this initiative. Building on current academic program processes, internal to the university and consistent with State Board policy and procedures, we will provide well developed programs and degrees, and articulate and develop programs designed to meet the needs of the next decade. As part of this analysis, a particular focus will be on options for first year student discovery such as meta-majors may afford opportunities to direct students to majors, increasing retention and persistence in those majors while also affording sufficient flexibility to alter a major and still progress to a timely graduation. This culture of academic excellence will assure the overall quality, relevance, and effectiveness of general education and academic program. Second, distance and extended education options such as summer session, online degree options, ISI and dual credit offerings will provide lower cost and more flexible options for non-traditional students as well as economically-disadvantaged students to obtain a University of Idaho degree. Third, to address equity issues among our diverse student population, we will look for opportunities to amplify and expand NSSE High Impact Practices through our Undergraduate Research, Service Learning, and Honors Programs. Finally, we will increase efforts to highlight the importance of excellence in teaching and increase visibility of advising in the university community via awards, recognition, and resource opportunities that promote innovation and effectiveness. This first Waypoint will focus on aspects one and two above.

Academic Initiatives supports Goals 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Goal 1: Scholarly and creative products of the highest quality and scope, resulting in significant positive impact for the region and the world.

Objective B: Create, validate, and apply knowledge through the co-production of scholarly and creative works by students, staff, faculty, and diverse external partners.

Goal 2: Suggest and influence change that addresses societal needs and global issues, and advanced economic development and culture.

Objective C: Engage individuals (alumni, friends, stakeholders and collaborators), businesses, industry, agencies and communities in meaningful and beneficial ways that support the University of Idaho's mission.

Goals 3: Increase our Educational Impact

Objective A: Provide greater access to educational opportunities to meet the evolving needs of society.

Objective B: Foster educational excellence via curricular innovation and evolution.

Objective C: Create an inclusive learning environment that encourages students to take an active role in their student experience.

Goal 4: Foster an inclusive, diverse community of students, faculty and staff and improve cohesion and morale.

Objective A: Build an inclusive, diverse community that welcomes multicultural and international perspectives.

Mapping and assessing long-term activities with respect to the strategic plan goals and priority institutional metrics (page 6 of university strategic plan):

University Strategic Goal	Focus for unit? (Y or N)	Unit's high priority activities to support and advance this goal	Corresponding measure of success (metrics and / or milestones)
Innovate (especially terminal degrees) Objective B	y	Develop and advertise opportunities for undergraduate work in sponsored projects Expand the scope and support for undergraduate research	687 students paid from sponsored projects 75% undergraduate student involvement in research
Engage (especially Go-on rates) Objective C	y	Advertise and expand access to experiential learning programs Develop funding sources for students to participate in experiential learning	85% undergraduate students participate in one or more opportunity
Transform (especially Enrollment and Retention) Objectives A, B, and C	y	Curriculum review and refinement Increase access through distance delivery of programs and courses High quality programs and services that engage students in their learning	Enrollment increase to 17,000 90% retention of new students ; 85% retention new transfer students
Cultivate (especially Work Environment and Inclusivity)	Y	Focused recruitment and retention strategies to support the student experience	4,300 multicultural student enrollment; 2,000 international student enrollment

Waypoint 1 goal(s) and objective(s), and tactics (short narrative description):

Key tactics described here in narrative form, as a numbered list that will be performed during the first three years of the plan. Include a cross referencing to strategic plan goals and objectives where possible.

Waypoint 1 will focus on two initiatives:

1. University-wide curriculum structure and the first-year experience. This university-wide discussion will evaluate the pathways our current students take to finding their majors and graduating. It is focused on the undergraduate programs only. The goal is to seek innovative approaches that balance pro-active guidance/advising with sufficient curricular flexibility to allow students to commit to the right major at the right time. The goal is to maximize graduation rates and minimize excess credit accumulation. Concepts that have been proposed in preliminary conversations include a University College for all first-year students, a university-wide undeclared major with appropriate support staff, and meta-majors replacing major declarations in the first year. The primary impact of this effort would be to first to second year retention and perhaps third-to fourth-year retention. The goal is to increase retention by 10% by the end of the nine-year plan which will translate into an additional 750 students (approximate) retained. Within this first Waypoint, we do not anticipate realizing that entire gain but seek to increase retention at a level that grows enrollment (heads) by 100 students by the end of the Waypoint (Goal 3, Objective B).
2. Support for online programs and new program development. As the university has dealt with fiscal challenges over the past decade, we have focused heavily on cost-reduction and less on new, innovative academic programs. Given the need to reach new audiences, the Distance and Extended Education office will bring focus to these activities and provide support for college faculty and leadership via external demand research, marketing coordination and support, student services and support as well as program assessment. This office, working through partnership with the colleges, seeks to establish new academic programs in the first Waypoint that will help increase enrollment by 600 students (Goal 3, Objective A).

Waypoint 1 Metric Targets for Unit:

For each numbered tactic on the prior page, please link to the appropriate strategic plan goal/objective and suggest a means of measuring progress over the course of the next three years (e.g. completion dates for milestones, specific measures of progress unique to your unit).

Initiative Number	Strategic plan goal and objective supported	Proposed means to assess progress	Progress by July 2017	Progress by July 2018	Progress by July 2019	Comments
1. First year experience	Goal 3, Objective B	Student retention Increase in enrollment	80.1%	82%	84%	
2. Increased access through distance offerings	Goal 4, Objective A	Increase dual credit participation Increase undergraduate first year retention	80%	85%	90%	