

Office of the Provost
Strategic Priorities
Academic Leadership Retreat
August 31, 2021



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



Office of the Provost—General Goals

- **Support 5 main goals of Strategic Vision**

1. Promote student access and success by supporting intensified statewide and national recruitment, flexible academic schedules and innovative curricular programming at all levels, high-impact Volunteer Experiences, and wrap-around academic support for all students
2. Collaborate with ORIED to support interdisciplinary work and prioritize recruitment of faculty, graduate students, and post-docs in targeted research, scholarship, and creative areas.
3. Assist in implementation of Diversity Action Plans, including diversifying student body and faculty
4. Support an innovative campus by assisting in implementation of new budget model and leading discussion of current college structures
5. Promote and reward faculty participation in community engagement and land-grant mission

- **Promote discussions about innovation in all mission areas**



Division of Enrollment Management--Goals

UG Strategic Enrollment Plan

- Establish new university enrollment goals
- Establish college enrollment plans
- Further diversify enrollment

Flexible Academic Calendar

- Launch Winter Mini Term
- Facilitate greater use of 12-month modular calendar



Division of Student Success--Goals

Retention

- Increase first-year retention rate to reach 90% in 5 years
- Reduce achievement gaps for first-generation and URM students
- Launch two pilot projects with first-year courses in biology and math to decrease DFW rates

Volunteer Experience

- Support Strengths Advisory Council (50 faculty & staff) that is considering how UT can adopt positive psychology (strengths/wellness) to facilitate undergraduate student success
- Use strengths and positive psychology approach as framework for developing Volunteer Experience (grounded in strategic vision and courage to care, think big, and lead)
- Collaborate with TLI to provide faculty with support for moving from deficit-framing to positive, strengths model

Division of Academic Affairs--Goals

Online Learning

- Build campus capacity for online delivery of instruction
- Collaborate with campus community to identify additional online program opportunities

Curriculum

- Work with colleges and departments to identify opportunities for new UG certificates
- Facilitate launch of Vol Core
- Streamline curricular change process



The Graduate School--Goals

Champion Diversity and Inclusion

- Commit resources for recruitment and retention of diverse students to graduate programs

Promote Student Success

- Provide meaningful growth opportunities for graduate/professional students outside of the academic programs

Support Growth in Graduate Enrollments

- Commit resources for expanding offerings in areas of workforce need and opportunity

Center for Global Engagement--Goals

Flexible Global Learning Opportunities

- Lead discussions among faculty to explore innovative Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)

Education Abroad Programming

- Restore participation in Programs Abroad in post-pandemic world
- Plan new education abroad programs, including global internships, winter mini-term program development, and alternative spring break programming

Support International Research Collaborations

- Work with ORIED on developing new international research capacities

Division of Faculty Affairs--Goals

Diversify Faculty and Administrative Ranks

- Support recruitment of URM faculty, including non-tenure track faculty
- Enroll greater numbers of URM faculty into leadership development programs

Enhance Support for Faculty Development and Retention

- Provide professional development opportunities for new and mid-career faculty
- Increase support for department heads in leadership development

Reform and Streamline Faculty Processes

- Move all evaluation processes to online platform (Interfolio)
- Review criteria for engaged teaching, scholarship, and service



Conclusion

- Shared Governance in a changing organization
 - ❖ In the new budget allocation model, deans will have enhanced executive authority over enhancing and allocating resources
 - ❖ The Office of the Provost will still oversee university-wide functions such as enrollment management, faculty personnel processes, graduate admissions, student success activities, academic program reviews, international initiatives, and so on
 - but it is timely and appropriate to*
 - ❖ Explore effective shared governance at all levels
 - ❖ Discuss the relation between the Office of the Provost and the colleges in the new budget model

A scenic view of a city at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with scattered clouds. In the foreground, a large steel truss bridge spans across a wide river. The background features a cityscape with various buildings, including a prominent multi-story brick building. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and nostalgic.

Thank You!