Shippensburg University Academic Master Plan

DRAFT – 4/12/12

Mission Statement

(The mission statement is intended to provide a brief description of the purpose of the division of Academic Affairs, the academic heart of the University.)

Student learning is at the center of the academic mission of Shippensburg University. The personal attention given to each student both inside and outside the classroom distinctly reflects this philosophy. Student learning is fostered through disseminating knowledge, developing and enhancing communications skills, creating awareness of the interdependence among people and ideas, stimulating creativity, encouraging critical inquiry, creating openness to differences, and developing individual learning skills and habits. Shippensburg's personal approach to student learning is reflected in small classes and laboratories, collaborative classroom settings, faculty-student research, team-based projects, internships, service learning, study abroad, independent study, and pre-professional programs.

Shippensburg University creates a community of scholars by anchoring students in a discipline and introducing them to the vibrant intellectual excitement of the university. Preparing students to live and work in a world of evolving technologies and global influences through quality intellectual experiences is deeply embedded in the curriculum. The major programs of study, structured according to academic and professional standards, prepare students to embark on careers and advanced study, to be thoughtful leaders, and to engage constructively in the global society.

Goals and Objectives

(The goals and objectives are intended to state the overarching academic priorities of the University for the next five years.)

Goal 1: Provide a curriculum and other learning experiences that creatively address the changing needs of a diverse, technology-based, global society.

Academic Affairs will …

1. Provide a rich academic climate that challenges students.
2. Offer programs of study that provide the knowledge foundation, context, and current state of the disciplines.
3. Provide a core program working in concert with major programs that builds a foundation for self-directed exploration and lifelong learning.
4. Develop students' ability to navigate the interconnectedness of knowledge.
5. Prepare students to succeed in a world of rapidly changing technologies and global interdependencies.

6. Provide graduate programs of study characterized by intellectual advancement, research and scholarship, and continuing development of professional skills.
7. Assess the curricula to advance student learning.
8. Provide pathways for the development of innovative programs, courses, and core experiences.

Goal 2: Cultivate a learning-centered environment to facilitate students' intellectual growth and success.

Academic Affairs will …
1. Recruit a diverse and highly qualified student body.
2. Provide a multi-faceted network of support services that meet all students' academic needs.
3. Support strategies that enhance student persistence and retention.
4. Offer small classes where students will receive personalized attention and evaluations that promote intellectual growth.
5. Encourage and facilitate collaborative learning opportunities.
6. Increase coordination and collaboration within Academic Affairs.
7. Increase coordination and collaboration between Academic Affairs, other divisions within the University, and the SU Foundation to enhance student learning.
8. Support the development of a physical campus environment that is engaging and inspires creativity and intellectual activity.

Goal 3: Enrich connections among the liberal arts, professional and graduate education, and the community to deepen disciplinary and professional understanding.

Academic Affairs will …
1. Promote and support experiential learning, including undergraduate and graduate research, field work, internships, service learning, and other creative learning activities beyond the classroom.
2. Support faculty as academic and professional mentors.
3. Forge new connections, and strengthen existing ones, between the university and the community.

Goal 4: Foster a stimulating scholarly environment for students, faculty, and staff that advances knowledge and that enhances the quality of the curriculum.

Academic Affairs will …
1. Recruit and retain a highly qualified and diverse faculty.
2. Support faculty research, scholarship, and professional development.
3. Align resources and organizational structures to support academic priorities.
4. Promote a rich intellectual exchange among students, faculty, and staff.

5. Provide dedicated administrative support for the pursuit, acquisition, and management of grant activities.
6. Support interdisciplinary collaborations for program development and research.

Goal 5: Cultivate global understanding, cross-cultural exchange, and an international perspective across the curriculum and university community.

Academic Affairs will …
1. Promote an appreciation for diverse international perspectives and cultures.
2. Promote an understanding of the common characteristics and concerns of globalized societies.
3. Challenge and broaden the worldviews of members of the university community.

Goal 6: Cultivate leadership, integrity, social responsibility, and civic engagement to prepare students, faculty, and staff for meaningful contributions to society.

Academic Affairs will …
1. Promote a culture that honors and respects basic human rights through the lifespan.
2. Promote a campus climate of respect, courtesy, personal responsibility, and collegiality.
3. Promote personal and professional character, values, and ethics.
4. Promote a culture that extends the academic principle of critical inquiry throughout campus life and that values speaking truth to power.
5. Promote meaningful participation in campus and community life.
6. Cultivate leaders among students, faculty, and staff.
7. Nurture the development of collaborations and partnerships that establish SU as a regional leader.

Goal 7: Cultivate an environment where the curriculum and culture supports the inclusion of and accessibility for members of diverse and under-represented populations.

Academic Affairs will …
1. Ensure equitable representation and treatment in all facets of university life.
2. Encourage open mindedness and an appreciation of differences.
3. Support the development of physical spaces and technologies that are accessible.