The University of Maine

Strategic Plan Assessment

Pathway 4

Transforming Lives
Strengthening the UMaine Undergraduate and Graduate Experience

October 25, 2017

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Pathway 4 Team

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Pathway Initiatives

4.

Transforming Lives: Strengthening the UMaine Undergraduate and Graduate Student Experience
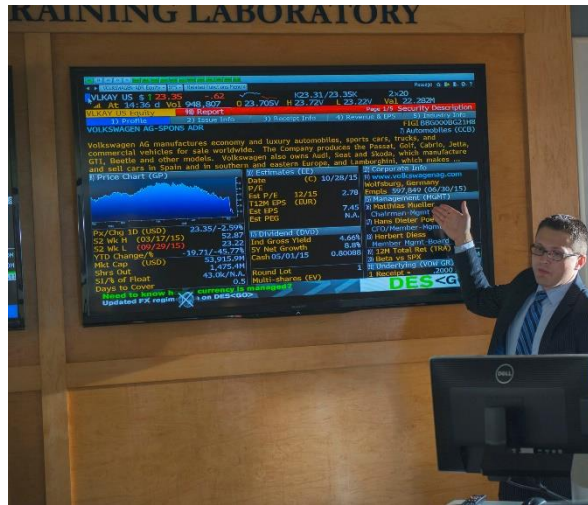
- Prioritize and support programs to increase student success and job placement
- Make international and/or cross-cultural opportunities central to the undergraduate experience
- Establish outcome-based, campus wide assessment of academic programs
- Improve and adapt the General Education curriculum
- Increase the number of externally funded undergraduate students involved in research
- Continue to develop the unique quality of the Honors College
- Explore new opportunities to enhance the residential life experience
- Enhance e-learning quality
- Increase the number of graduate students funded by assistantships and fellowships
- Develop graduate certificate programs

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

- **Prioritize and support programs to increase student success and job placement**

Capital Markets Training Lab (2014)

offers real-world teaching and learning opportunities in addition to providing an ideal facility for portfolio management and business modeling (commercializing) new and emerging technologies.

Innovative Media Research and Commercialization Center (IMRC)

located in Stewart Commons, is a state-of-the-art facility for prototyping products, for audio-visual production, for interactive innovation, and out-of-the-box creation.

Pathway

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

- **Make international and/or cross-cultural opportunities central to the undergraduate experience**

TeachLive

Avatar Simulation Teaching Laboratory is a mixed-reality immersive space located in Shibles Hall, to enhance professional skills in teaching, counseling and administrative practices.

Study Abroad

It is now easier for students to take courses abroad that would seamlessly transfer to UMaine.

Office of International Programs recruitment of international students to UMaine remains strong (new student applications have nearly doubled).

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

- **Establish outcome-based, campus wide assessment of academic programs**

    − Created the Office of Assessment. Director has worked with every academic department on plans for evaluating student learning outcomes

    − Office of Assessment has established a Program Advisory Board with members from all campus colleges. The Board provides feedback and validates processes.

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

- **Improve and adapt the General Education curriculum**

  A similar assessment to those being administered at the unit level is being developed for UMaine General Education courses, based on UMaine experience with the multi-state collaborative.

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

• **Increase the number of externally funded undergraduate students involved in research**

 − Created the Center for Undergraduate Research (CUGR)

 − Through CUGR have increased funding for undergraduates in research

 − The Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center has offered the Faculty Fellows Program, professional development workshops focused on increasing funding for undergraduate research.

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

- **Continue to develop the unique quality of the Honors College**
  - Converted faculty lines from non-tenure to tenure-track
  - Created new tenure-track faculty position
  - The Phage Genomics Project, The Servant Heart Collaborative, Finding the Sweet Spot are all initiatives in which the Honors College is collaborating in service and research locally and internationally.

Pathway

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

- **Explore new opportunities to enhance the residential life experience**

  - In 2014, Residence Life added the academic support coordinator position (graduate assistant) to the First Year Center (now the First Year and Transfer Student Center) to assist first year students academically (explain class registration process, connect with Student Accessibility Services, help get a tutor/use Math Lab and/or Writing Center).

  - In FY15, the Student Wellness Resource Center launched its peer coaching program (peer education) called Live Well (free). The program is free to students and includes consultation on life skills, personal habits, and health.

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

- **Enhance e-learning quality**

  - Opened the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) to support faculty and graduate students who wish to learn, experiment, assess and adopt new approaches to teaching and learning.

  - UMaine now offers year-round e-learning opportunities including the summer and winter sessions.

  - Division of Lifelong Learning (DLL) is working with additional units to develop a fully online orientation program.

SummerUniversity

WinterSession

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

- **Increase the number of graduate students funded by assistantships and fellowships**

  - Added six centrally funded graduate assistantships

  - Additional areas of increased assistantships come from externally supported positions (grants and contracts), TA positions created due to increased undergraduate enrollments, and positions outside of academic units (e.g., Student Life, Auxiliary Services, Athletics).

The number of university-supported graduate assistantships has increased by 38

7	22	9
Signature and Emerging Area Graduate Fellowships	Research Reinvestment Fund	Shared Teaching Assistant Pool

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

- **Develop graduate certificate programs**

  - New graduate certificates were developed/made available:

    - Instructional Design

    - English as a Second Language

    - Aerospace Engineering

    - Autism Spectrum Disorders

    - Interdisciplinary Climate Studies

    - Teacher Consultant in Writing

    These are in addition to the 10 funded through Project 24/7 in AY2012.

Pathway Accomplishments

4.

Pathway

- What else has been accomplished related to this Pathway?

- Are these initiatives still relevant?

- Considering the Pathway's broad goals, how else might this work be advanced?