

# Education Initiative – August 2013

## Action Plan Proposal

The Education Initiative was formally launched in Fall 2012 as a complement to UC San Diego's research initiatives to explore and leverage current best global thinking about educational strategies. A Working Group was charged to look at ways our campus can further support the intellectual, academic, cognitive, and social development of our undergraduate and graduate students, and to give faculty access to the latest research on learning and teaching that they can then incorporate into their courses.

To date, more than 80 faculty and educators have volunteered to be part of discussions and planning for a cultural transformation on campus by participating as members of the Education Initiative Working Group or on the related subcommittees: *Engagement Inside the Classroom*, *Technology-Enhanced Education*, *Real World/Transferrable Skills/Career Competencies*, and *Co-Curricular and Out-of-Class Activities*. An additional 50 people have expressed interest by attending the events organized by the Education Initiative or by asking to receive regular updates.

At the end of Spring 2013, the subcommittees submitted action plan proposals to the Working Group who reviewed and discussed them. The subcommittees worked separately and focused on different aspects of the Education Initiative. Their proposed goals and objectives are distinct but aligned, and reflect wide agreement regarding what is needed to create an engaging university environment for students and faculty. The Leadership Team drafted this action plan, which merges the common elements from the proposals.

The Education Initiative Working Group and its reconfigured subcommittees on *Engaged Teaching* and *Engaged Learning* will continue working in 2013-14 on the proposed action plan through the implementation process, with the goal of improving student and faculty engagement.

### **Objectives:**

#### **ENGAGED TEACHING:**

- Create the infrastructure to support faculty in learning about new technologies and pedagogical methods as well as how to implement and assess them.
- Develop departmental and divisional curriculum-specific real-world skills expectations to be incorporated in courses and co-curricular activities.
- Keep up to date with, and communicate about the ongoing campus discussions and experiments regarding technology-enhanced teaching and learning.

#### **ENGAGED LEARNING:**

- Create an infrastructure to support the development, delivery, and assessment of programs that address general real-world skills and can be tracked by the "Student Electronic Record System" (SRS) described below.
- Implement an integrated three-tier SRS which includes an enhanced electronic transcript (E2T), a co-curricular record (CCR), and an electronic portfolio (EP).

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### **Organizational Structure 2013-2014:**

Leadership Team: The original leadership team, which includes Barbara Sawrey (co-chair), Kim Barrett (co-chair), Gabriele Wienhausen, Jeanne Ferrante, Steven Adler, Beth Simon, Kathleen D. Johnson, and Marina Hayden, will be joined by the three new subcommittee co-chairs: Alan Houston, Jeff Elman, and Amy Binder (see below under Subcommittees). The leadership team will advocate:

- Establishing the administrative structure (e.g. Teaching and Learning Commons, Network, or Centralized Resource) that will support faculty and students in engaged teaching and learning, and will serve to connect a range of relevant programs that address real world skills.
- Collaboratively creating a system of rewards and incentives for departments, divisions, colleges, and faculty who are involved in building curriculum-specific real-world skills into courses and co-curricular activities.

Working Group: All 29 original members have committed to continuing on the Working Group. This will allow continuity of discussions and will provide support for new members.

Subcommittees: The four previous subcommittees will be reconfigured into two: *Engaged Teaching* and *Engaged Learning*, with the following co-chairs:

- Engaged Teaching Subcommittee Co-Chairs: Jeff Elman, Dean of Social Sciences and Gabriele Wienhausen, Associate Dean of Biological Sciences
- Engaged Learning Subcommittee Co-Chairs: Alan Houston, Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Amy Binder, Associate Professor of Sociology

### **Campus Partners and Consultants**

The Education Initiative is inclusive of other campus stakeholders who would like to join by becoming members of the new subcommittees. The current subcommittees include many Student Affairs staff members, along with Academic Affairs staff, and faculty.

### **More information:**

The Education Initiative has a website at: <http://academicaffairs.ucsd.edu/ug-ed/education-initiative.html> where you can find more information about:

- The original action plans submitted by the subcommittees
- Input submitted to the Strategic Plan
- Events organized by the Education Initiative