

Education Initiative – End-of-Year Report

Academic Year 2013 – 14

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. The aim of the Education Initiative is to look at ways that UC San Diego 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 teaching and learning that they can then incorporate into their courses.

To date, more than 110 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 related Committees and Subcommittees. An additional 150 people have expressed interest in the Education Initiative by attending the events organized by the Education Initiative or by signing up to receive updates.

Recommendations

At the end of Spring 2014, the Engaged Teaching and Engaged Learning Committees made the following recommendations:

Engaged Teaching: Jeff Elman and Gabriele Wienhausen (Co-chairs)

- Create a Teaching and Learning Commons (TLC) with the goal of significantly enhancing teaching and learning at UC San Diego and to continue the work of the Education Initiative by developing and providing programs and services for undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and faculty.
- Create two subsidiaries of the TLC, the Center for Engaged Teaching and the Center for Engaged Learning. (The Center for Engaged Teaching is a reformulation and expansion of the current Center for Teaching Development).

Engaged Learning: Amy Binder and Alan Houston (Co-chairs)

- First-Year Transition Program Subcommittee
Create a first-year transition course. The six colleges will be piloting a 2-unit course in Fall 2014 to 120 randomly selected freshmen in each college to enhance the first-year experience. An equivalent course for transfers is being proposed for 2015.
- Experiential Learning Portal Subcommittee
Create an online portal to engage students in experiential learning and to provide a one-stop shop for students to find out about opportunities across campus (AIP, EAP, Career Services, Global Health, etc.).
- Student Electronic Record System (SERS) Subcommittee
Create the following:
 - Enhanced Electronic Transcript to include additional course information.
 - Co-Curricular Record to capture information not generally included in the student transcript.
 - E-Portfolio to include a section for interacting with advisors and an outward facing component for employers and grad schools. Possible collaboration with LinkedIn.

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Actions to Date

Engaged Learning

A new temporary Director of Academic Strategic Initiatives appointment was created to help guide the ongoing development and implementation of key elements of the Education Initiative. Specifically, the Director will lead the recommendations of the SERS Subcommittee and the development of an implementable proposal for the Center for Engaged Learning (CEL). The CEL will integrate a number of co-curricular activities, programs and services that are now distributed across Academic Affairs and Student Affairs. Alan Houston, in close collaboration with Barbara Sawrey and Kim Barrett, will lead this effort.

Engaged Teaching

A search for the Faculty Director of the Teaching and Learning Commons was announced on September 22, 2014. The Faculty Director will establish the infrastructure of the Teaching & Learning Commons and its two subsidiary units, the Center for Engaged Teaching and the Center for Engaged Learning.

Structure

Leadership Team

The Leadership Team includes Barbara Sawrey (co-chair), Kim Barrett (co-chair), Gabriele Wienhausen, Jeanne Ferrante, Steven Adler, Beth Simon, Kathleen D. Johnson, and Marina Hayden. Alan Houston, Jeff Elman, and Amy Binder joined the Leadership Team for 2013-14.

Working Group

All 29 original members who served in 2012-13 committed to continuing to serve on the Working Group for 2013-14.

2013-14 Committees and Subcommittees

The 2013-14 committees were created as recommended and described in the Education Initiative Action Plan 2013

- Engaged Teaching
- Engaged Learning
 - First-Year Transition Program
 - Experiential Learning Portal
 - Student Electronic Record System

2012-13 Committees

- Engagement Inside the Classroom
- Technology-Enhanced Education
- Real World/Transferrable Skills/Career Competencies
- Co-Curricular and Out-of-Class Activities

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Campus Events

- Simon Marginson: The Future of the Californian Model of Higher Education; October 9, 2014.
- Williams Ettouati, Stephen Mayfield, Pavel Pevzner, moderated by Scott Klemmer: Technology-Enhanced Education; May 30, 2014.
- Kimberly Tanner: Beyond Assessing Knowledge; May 7, 2014.
- Scott Klemmer: Design at Large; November 22, 2013.
- Ed Hutchins and Arlene Russell: Calibrated Peer Review; March 8, 2013.
- Daphne Koller: Coursera and Online Education; February 6, 2013.
- Barbara Sawrey and Beth Simon: Introductory Presentation, November 30, 2012.

Examples of Related Initiatives on Campus

Several initiatives have been developed on campus which are related to the Education Initiative or are of interest to its members.

- The Chancellor’s Strategic Plan
The Education Initiative has been incorporated into the Chancellor’s Strategic plan.
- The College’s First-Year Experience Course
The sixth Colleges have invited new freshmen to enroll in their 2-unit course with one hour of lecture led by a Provost or professor and one hour of discussion led by upper-class undergraduate students each week. This course is designed specifically to help new students maximize their educational experience at UC San Diego. More information for each college is posted under: Marshall, Muir, Revelle, Roosevelt, Sixth, and Warren.
- The Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI)
ILTI is designed to meet UC campus needs for high quality online or hybrid course offerings. The Initiative will enhance the educational experience and opportunities for UC students by helping them get access to high demand courses, satisfy degree requirements, and graduate on time.
- Center for Advancing Mathematics, Science and Engineering Education (CAMSEE)
CAMSEE (formerly MaSA) brings together individuals who have a sound knowledge of the process and concepts of their science or math discipline and who wish to advance their understanding of pedagogy and apply their skills to improving mathematics and science education. A core group convenes regularly and has been working on joint projects since Summer 2013.

The Education Initiative has a webpage where more information is available.