BLUGOLD COMMITMENT DIFFERENTIAL TUITION

THE 2013-2014 PROVOST INITIATIVE SPENDING PLAN

PERMANENT (BASE) FUNDING

FRESHMAN ACADEMIC AND TRANSITION SUPPORT PROGRAM

The 2013-2014 Provost Initiative will invest ($158,317) to develop and sustain a freshman academic and transition support program. The program will align residential, academic student support, and instructional delivery and expertise with the needs of freshman students to achieve improved success and retention.

Departments may designate regular-sized, high-demand, lower-division course sections for new-freshman-only enrollment. Instructors teaching these sections are encouraged to participate in Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) professional development programming aimed at effective education of new freshman students. Funding for upper-division student mentors and associated out-of-class activities will be available.

Students enrolled in the new-freshman-only sections will live in the same residence hall creating a living-learning community. Students will be expected to participate in Blugold Blueprint programming (with online and face-to-face options) specifically designed for new freshman students. Students will be given a Blugold Blueprint Passport through which to plan and document their participation. Instructors are encouraged to facilitate student use of the passport and to connect appropriate portions of the programming to the academic content of the new freshman courses.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES LEAD ADVISOR PROGRAM

The 2013-2014 Provost Initiative will invest ($207,647) to sustain a department-based lead advisor program previously supported through one-time Blugold Commitment Provost Initiative funding. The Lead Advisor Program will receive provide a 0.50 FTE position in each of the following departments: Music & Theatre Arts, Communication & Journalism, and Psychology. These departments represent a significant portion of student majors within the College of Arts & Sciences. The College will receive a 0.50 FTE position in support of pre-professional advising which also a counts for a significant portion of the College majors. In addition, the College will receive funding to support student wages, services and supplies, and travel related to the Lead Advisor Program.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COURSE AVAILABILITY

The 2013-2014 Provost Initiative will invest ($258,265) to develop and sustain an agile hiring program aimed at addressing periodic course availability issues. Academic Affairs will oversee 3.25 FTE and associated salary funding to address last-minute course availability issues that arise within the colleges. Human Resources will maintain a continuous hiring cycle through which qualified candidates can maintain standing applications for short-term instructional positions. Academic departments will approve standing applicants for potential assignment to specific courses. Academic Affairs will commit Blugold Commitment Differential Tuition funding to hire instructors from the applicant pool to teach courses facing last-minute unmet student demand.
Faculty Positions in High-Demand and Mission-Centric Curricular Areas
The 2013-2014 Provost Initiative will invest ($169,411) to support a new faculty tenure-track positions in key areas of high student demand and mission-central curricular areas. These positions will provide additional instructional capacity to meet increasing student demand and/or liberal education core options.

Sophomore Student Success Initiative
The 2013-2014 Provost Initiative will invest ($99,943) to support a 1.0 FTE position and associated programming in the Office of Advising and New Student Initiatives dedicated to increasing the sophomore-to-junior retention rate. The position will focus on student success and retention programming that targets the unique needs of sophomore students who are at risk of not returning for their junior year. These students typically lack connection to a major and/or career path. Sophomore programming will explicitly address this disconnection along with other student-engagement options.

Center for Suicide Prevention, Awareness, and Research
The 2013-2014 Provost Initiative will invest ($51,336) to develop and sustain a new Center for Suicide Prevention, Awareness, and Research. The Center will be a joint operation between the Divisions of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs that will use an innovative yet proven approach to reducing student depression, withdrawal, and in the extreme, suicide. The funding will support staffing, services and supplies, and provide significant wages to support trained, student peer counsellors.