New College of Florida Strategic Planning Y-AXIS Narrative Addendum

II.A. Access to and Production of Degrees

- 1. Bachelor's Degrees: New College, a small residential liberal arts and sciences institution, awards the Bachelor of Arts degree to each of its graduates. We do not currently offer advanced or professional degrees. Given the scale of the Board of Governor's overall projections, New College's planned growth in the production of bachelor's degrees may seem modest. However, New College's strategic planning does parallel the State University System's: we anticipate a 20% increase in the production of degrees in the next five years, and a comparable growth rate ten years out.
- 2-4. Advanced Degrees: Although we do not currently award advanced degrees, New College has achieved national recognition for the rate at which its undergraduates attend graduate and professional schools. A recent Wall Street Journal list ranked New College as 2nd in state institutions in the nation in per capita percentage of graduates who attend Florida's and the country's premier law, business, and medical schools. We plan to continue to build on this strong record of undergraduate preparation, and to increase our visibility as a premier liberal arts and sciences institution. We intend to show steady improvement in the primary indicator: New College graduates' acceptance rate to graduate and professional school.
- 5. Access/Diversity: Achieving diversity among students, faculty, and staff in all forms has long been a goal at New College. We have made increasing diversity a top priority in our strategic planning, and intend to keep pace with the SUS target goals.

II. B. Meeting Statewide Professional and Workforce Needs

1-5. New College does not offer degrees in the specific areas listed, but by emphasizing the development of strong critical thinking skills and hands-on collaborative research, the College prepares graduates for productive and successful careers that address the spectrum of state workforce needs identified in the Board's Strategic Plan. New College graduates develop competencies that allow them to immediately embark on careers or, in many cases, pursue further training in the targeted areas upon graduation. The College's planned initiatives in the areas of computer science and information technology should lead to greater numbers of graduates pursuing those targeted careers.

III. C. Building World-class Academic Programs and Research Capacity

1-6. New College is proud of the research productivity of its faculty. Although we do not have the extensive facilities and resources of a research university, we have successfully and routinely attracted research and grant support from selective Federal funding agencies (e.g., NSF, NIH, FIPSE,) and other, private organizations. Our students

also are productive: For example, (after competitive review) New College 30 students were invited to present their research at the most recent Council on Undergraduate Research National meeting. Four New College students were awarded Fulbright Fellowships last year. Given our per capita productivity levels, it may be difficult to improve on many of these measures. However, we plan to maintain current levels of productivity, and as our facilities grow and Sponsored Research infrastructure matures, we anticipate improving our funding support, and achieving greater national and international recognition (as reflected in rankings like the Princeton Review, Kiplinger's, Kaplan's Guides, and the Fiske Guide) for the quality of our faculty and our academic program. Finally, New College has consistently scored above the 90th percentile on the National Survey of Student Engagement. Our goal is to steadily improve on those scores, and to be among the top 5% of comparable institutions by 2013.

II.D. Meeting Community Needs and Fulfilling Unique Institutional Responsibilities

We may be a very small liberal arts school, but as the Honors College of the SUS and the newest state "University," New College of Florida intends to expand its role as a vital center for community engagement. We seek to involve the members of the local community, including the K-12 schools, other postsecondary institutions, community-based organizations, and local governments as active partners and collaborators in a wide array of projects and research efforts. We believe that these community-based partnerships can provide valuable benefits to the residents of the Sarasota-Manatee region and the state, as well as to New College students and faculty. This year we established a collaborative research partnership between Sarasota County and the New College Environmental Studies Program to develop field research stations and offer programs in public environmental education. Although measurable outcomes and indicators for community outreach are difficult to identify, New College intends to increase its participation and engagement in these kinds of community-based efforts at the local and state levels.

NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

Strategic Planning Y-Axis

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