



Excellence With Caring

# Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

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OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND  
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Jan M. Ignash, Vice Chancellor  
Academic and Student Affairs

**From:** Marcella David, Provost and *H. Bailey Lee*  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Date:** August 27, 2015

**Re:** Student Success Funding

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### Introduction

In the 2015 budget, the Florida Legislature appropriated \$1 million recurring funds to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to be used for student success initiatives.

Florida A&M University has carefully considered how this funding can be used to support its goal of becoming a best-in-class university, by raising its student success outcomes, including 4- and 6-year graduation rates, APR and other indicators; FAMU's goal is to meet or exceed the system averages for those indicators by 2021.

### Investment

In order to accomplish this, FAMU is enhancing ongoing student success strategies and deploying additional strategies that represent the best practices from within the State University System and on a national level. Taken together, these student success investments fall into three categories: first, investing in an even more proactive academic advising model; second, enhancing the curriculum, including curriculum designed to meet K-12 developmental gaps; and third, holistically responding to student needs. Accordingly, all of the expenditures represent, at a minimum, investments in improving performance funding metrics 4, 5 and 9 (6-year graduation rate, academic progress rate and bachelor's degrees without excess hours).

- **Degree Mapping & Curriculum Software Upgrades (\$100,000+)** - Software upgrades will enhance quality of advising for students through mapping and better tracking.

- **Placement Testing** (\$100,000) - Expanded use of ALEKS and other tests will allow us to better place students in appropriate courses (e.g., math and science) and reduce excess hours; ALEKS was piloted in AY 2014-2015.
- **Developmental Program Director** (\$100,000) - This new hire will allow for coordination of developmental courses across campus to ensure better delivery and better student success.
- **Academic Advisors** (\$250,000) - These additional academic advisors will improve the advising ratio. For example, for pre-majors (students with 59 or fewer credits) the advising ratio would improve from 103:1 to 86:1.
- **Interdisciplinary Advisor (Social Sciences)** (\$50,000) - The new Interdisciplinary Studies majors have become more popular. Specialized advising is necessary to appropriately transition students into this major.
- **Books/Materials** (\$50,000) - This investment is needed to support student success; the costs of textbooks and other materials is a significant barrier to students participating in pre-enrollment “boot camp” and “developmental assistance” programming.
- **Math Lab** (\$90,000) - FAMU has invested in a new computerized Math Lab to support enhanced math curriculum. This funding will support staffing (teaching assistants and other staff) to assist students.
- **Student Affairs: Counseling Certification, Counseling Services and Student Assessment, Title IX; and 9. Student Affairs Assessment and Care Team National Behavior Intervention Team (NaBITA) Association Certification Course** (\$267,000) – Increasingly, student success is impacted by non-academic issues; this funding will support enhancement of our counseling, assessment and Title IX programming.

**Beginning in 2016, the funding used for software enhancement will be invested in a new BOOTCAMP to ensure a strong start for FTIC students identified as having risk factors.**

**FAMU STUDENT SUCCESS EXPENDITURES FY 2016**

<b>Student Success Funding</b>	<b>Recurring</b>	<b>Non-Recurring</b>	<b>Performance Metrics</b>
1. Degree Mapping & Curriculum Software Upgrades FTIC Bootcamp (scheduled to start 2016 \$107,000)		\$ 100,000	4,5 and 9 4,5 and 9
2. Developmental Program Director	\$ 100,000		4,5 and 9
3. Academic Advisors	\$ 250,000		4,5 and 9
4. Placement Testing	\$ 100,000		4,5 and 9
5. Interdisciplinary Advisor (Social Sciences)	\$ 50,000		4,5 and 9
6. Books/Materials	\$ 50,000		4,5 and 9
7. Math Lab and Smart Classrooms	\$ 90,000		4,5 and 9
8. Student Affairs: Counseling Certification, Counseling Services and Student Assessment, Title IX	\$ 253,000		4,5 and 9
9. Student Affairs Assessment and Care Team National Behavior Intervention Team (NaBITA) Association Certification Course		\$ 7,000	4,5 and 9
<b>Total Student Success Funding 2015</b>	<b><u>\$ 893,000 *</u></b>	<b>\$ 107,000</b>	

*\*Total Student Success Funding 2016: \$1,000,000 after 2015 non-recurring expenses are invested in FTIC Bootcamp summer of 2016.*