

The 2020 Initiative: A Path to Academic Excellence and Economic Opportunity

Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi has initiated a campus conversation about how to sustain and enhance excellence at UC Davis, building on existing strengths and resources to become a more active partner with the state in supporting higher education. The campus is now considering the prospect of a new future that will include expanding educational opportunities to an increased number of California, national and international students.

“The goal is to continue creating a university that can sustain its rising trajectory through its own best efforts, leveraging support from the state but rising above the fiscal limitations we now face,” Katehi said on Sept. 21, 2011, when she announced the 2020 Initiative during her annual fall convocation address.

The 2020 Initiative will help UC Davis achieve several strategic objectives:

- Deliver the benefits of a UC education to an additional 5,000 deserving undergraduates – both California resident and non-resident students alike.
- Provide more international experiences for our campus community to create a more diverse educational climate and prepare future global leaders.
- Boost regional economic development and create new jobs on and off campus.
- Provide sufficient additional revenue to support up to 300 new tenure-track faculty positions.
- Improve our existing infrastructure and make investments needed to sustain and grow excellence.
- Increase financial stability by reducing reliance on the state for funding.

UC Davis has launched a planning process to provide a thoughtful and transparent approach to test this alternative future. The effort will be rooted in sound academic planning, building upon campus strengths to address emerging areas of societal need. The process will engage the broader UC Davis community – students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and neighbors – to ensure that the campus’s distinctive character is retained and enhanced as the campus grows.

The university’s focus in this process will be on how proposed increases in enrollment would further academic excellence, innovation and economic development, rather than growth for growth’s sake.

While preliminary planning occurred during summer 2011, the formal planning process will commence soon. Chancellor Katehi and Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Ralph Hexter will create three task forces to study three broad areas of inquiry: academic planning, enrollment management and facility needs. Importantly, the process will also identify assessment metrics that would provide important guideposts of success.

Chancellor Katehi and Provost Hexter will lead the 2020 Initiative planning process. Assisting them will be Ken Burtis, professor of genetics and past dean of the College of Biological Sciences, who will serve as their liaison with various constituencies and will coordinate the strategic planning effort. Assistant Vice Chancellor Karl Mohr of Administrative and Resource Management will partner with Dr. Burtis to support the process.

To provide comments or suggestions on the process, please send email to future@ucdavis.edu.