

North Carolina A&T State University
Board of Trustees
University Studies Review Response

On September 27-29, 2009, an external review team (Scholars for Educational Excellence and Diversity, Inc.) was commissioned to conduct a comprehensive review of the University Studies (UNST) Program, the interdisciplinary general education curriculum that provides the intellectual foundation for the University's degree-granting programs. The Scholars for Educational Excellence and Diversity, Inc, was charged to critically evaluate the following program components: the curriculum, co-curricular program, student learning outcomes and assessment of those outcomes, transfer of credit and other policies, faculty qualification and credentialing, administrative structure and managerial operations, budget, the University Studies website, annual reports, and overall institutional satisfaction. In addition, the external review team was asked to benchmark best practices in university studies programs and to provide a set of recommendations for program improvement.

The Scholars for Educational Excellence and Diversity, Inc. submitted its final report to the University on October 14, 2009. Attached are both the summary report and the full report (redacted).

This report has been distributed to the Chancellor's Cabinet, the Academic Deans and the Faculty Senate.

The report has also been discussed extensively in Cabinet meetings, resulting in the following plan of action:

- Consistent with the practice of shared governance and in the spirit of openness and transparency, a letter from Chancellor Martin was distributed to the faculty and staff outlining the University's plan to respond to and/or implement the six findings and 15 recommendations offered by the External Review Team for the purpose of improving the UNST Program.
- Prior to the end of the fall semester, the Chancellor and the Provost will convene a meeting with the Division of University Studies to discuss the University's plan of action to respond to the external review and to address their concerns and answer all questions.
- A University Studies Review Task Force has been formed by the Chancellor to address the findings and recommendations pertaining to the "Administrative Structure and Managerial Operation" of the Division of University Studies. The purpose of this UNST Review Task Force is to provide scholarly and thoughtful advice to the Chancellor. This report will be developed in a timely manner and will be completed by February 15, 2010. Dr. Alton Thompson, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, serves as Chairperson of the task force.

- Following receipt and evaluation of this report, in consultation with the Provost, Academic Deans and Cabinet, the Chancellor will finalize a plan for enhancing the current administrative structure or implementing an alternative administrative structure, if appropriate, for UNST.
- Depending on the administrative structure implemented, any personnel adjustments will be made and become effective July 1, 2010.
- In Fall 2010, a second University Studies External Review Task Force will be appointed to review and address the **non-administrative** findings and recommendations submitted by the Scholars for Educational Excellence and Diversity, Inc. This second task force will be charged to develop a comprehensive plan to address the findings and recommendations pertaining to the UNST academic program: foundation courses, cluster courses, capstone courses and service learning.
- It is expected that this plan will be developed in an inclusive manner and will be completed by the end of the spring semester 2011.
- The UNST Plan will be fully vetted by the Faculty Senate, Academic Deans, Faculty Forum and the Cabinet.
- The UNST Plan, based on the collective wisdom of the Faculty Senate, Academic Deans and Cabinet, will be fully implemented in Fall 2011.