Academic Affairs
Strategic Plan Considerations

December 8, 2015

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

1. Deliver a customizable professional degree program that ensures active integrated learning while preparing students for problem-oriented patient care:

- Provide opportunities for incoming students to place out of certain basic science courses and participate in alternative educational tracks, including independent study and research. *progressing*

- Develop accelerated- or advanced standing OD programs for scientists and internationally trained physicians and optometrists. *underway*

- Implement the advanced graduate certificate program in optometry business management leading to an MBA program. *underway*

- Align pre-clinical and clinical training with current and future trends in optometric practice. *progressing*

- Ensure the curriculum effectively integrates basic and clinical sciences and teaches critical thinking and the principles of evidence-based practice. *progressing*

- Explore and implement technologies that support and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of course materials. *underway*

- Develop the library's electronic resources and make them readily accessible to students, clinicians, scientists and alumni. *underway*

2. Deliver competency-based clinical training that is founded upon evidence-based practice and anticipates future practice trends:

- Redefine core clinical competencies and expected clinical experiences and use these to develop clinical schedules and individualized student portfolios that will allow every student to achieve each of the competencies while offering opportunities for developing special interests. *underway*

- Increase the emphasis on evidence based medicine, particularly in Integrative Seminar. *progressing*

- Highlight research colloquia for students and faculty that feature both internal and external speakers with emphasis on translational and clinical topics relating to evidence-based practice. *underway*

- Place greater emphasis on inter-professionalism, providing additional opportunities for faculty, students and residents to improve skills in providing interdisciplinary, team based patient care and use of auxiliary personnel. *progressing*

- Increase opportunities for fourth-year rotations, including more upstate and international rotations. *progressing*

- Increase the ability of students to assess and use new technologies. *underway*

- Provide innovative and cost-effective residency programs, including combined graduate degree/residency programs and opportunities for involvement with clinical research. *underway*

- Expand and diversify Continuing Professional Education programs, including synchronous and asynchronous online webinars. *underway*

- Provide Continuing Professional Education programs in countries other than the United States. *underway*

3. Enhance the College's intellectual impact by developing new areas of research that are synergistic with the College's existing research and clinical strengths and provide opportunities for collaborations and translational projects:

- Recruit new research faculty members whose interests are synergistic with the College's existing research and clinical strengths[1]. *(underway)*

- Establish new research collaborations specifically through the SUNY Eye Institute and the New York City vision science community that lead to additional funded research and opportunities to attract and cross train high-quality graduate students. *(progressing)*

- Offer credit-bearing graduate courses in vision science that attract students who are studying eye/vision-related issues in other disciplines at SUNY and/or New York City institutions. *(challenging)*

- Explore and develop alternative funding strategies to expand research programs, including fundraising, foundations and industry grants. *(underway)*

- Obtain extramural (e.g., T32) funding to support doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows. *(planning)*

- Create a regular internal review and evaluation process for intramural awards that fund pilot projects to develop funding opportunities for collaborative translational research or research training. *(underway)*

- Increase faculty interactions and collegiality through implementation of faculty SIGs. *(challenging)*

[1]Areas of identified need in research (basic science, clinical or translational) include optics, epidemiology/statistics, computer assisted visual aids, ocular physiology/pharmacology (including molecular biology and genetics) and extrastriate cortex.

4. Strengthen and expand programs that train clinician scientists:

- Heighten optometry students' awareness of
  - Career opportunities in research;
  - The importance of research for the profession and the value that the College places on research; and
  - Funding mechanisms that are available to support research training.
- Review all graduate programs using experienced external advisors and develop and implement recommendations for improvements.

- Redesign the OD-MS program to provide the necessary training, skills and career development support to increase the number of graduates obtaining research positions in academia or industry or continuing on to a PhD program.
- Establish combined graduate degree/Residency programs.
- Develop a track that allows OD-MS students and qualified optometrists to receive a PhD in as little as three years.
- Obtain an institutional "K" award to support optometrists who enroll in the PhD program.

Goals and Priorities for 2015-16

- College Wide
  - ***MSCHE Periodic Review Report***
  - SUNY Performance enhancement grants
  - Library modifications and planning

Goals and Priorities for 2015-16

- Faculty
  - New Faculty orientation and mentorship program
  - Faculty Retreat
  - Faculty recruitment, retention, development
    - Clinical faculty
    - Ocular physiology
    - Clinical scientists

Goals and Priorities for 2015-16

- Professional Degree Program
  - Clinical Education
    - Finalize Core Competencies statement
    - New clinical technologies
    - EBP software
    - Simulator labs
  - Expand IPE and IPP
  - Advanced standing/Accelerated programs
    - Assess Wenzhou program
  - Externship reviews
  - Student Advisor Program
  - Teaching lab relocation planning

Goals and Priorities for 2015-16

- Graduate Programs
  - Review and assess graduate program changes
- Research
  - Expand clinical research capacity
  - Human subject research accreditation
  - Recruit faculty in ocular physiology
    - Cell and molecular biology