

Strategic priorities for CAS strategic plan
Draft presented for feedback December 2017

Principle #1—The following priorities are aligned with the University’s high level strategic priorities and support the core values of the UM-Flint mission: excellence in teaching, learning and scholarship; student centeredness; engaged citizenship.

Principle #2—These priorities are focused on finding solutions for things CAS can control.

Principle #3—These priorities do not assume new resources from outside CAS will emerge to fund strategic priorities. If we want to fund new initiatives we will need to reallocate existing resources.

Foster a culture in CAS of greater collaboration and trust

CAS will build a culture of greater understanding, recognition and respect. This includes finding ways to ensure greater collaboration and trust between the elements of our large and heterogeneous College, and to ensure that the excellent work already being done is properly recognized and valued.

- We will create a context where competition between departments and disciplines is minimized in the College to enable more unification toward the greater good of CAS.

- We will deepen our commitment to an inclusive and welcoming culture that celebrates our diversity across its various dimensions.

- We will cultivate a college wide understanding of the scope, meaning and importance of a liberal arts education within all disciplines of CAS.

- We will increase awareness of and collaboration between academic departments.

- We will encourage more widespread participation in service, work toward more equitable distribution of service, and better recognize quality service throughout the College, including a deeper focus on professional development for service and leadership roles.

Make CAS visible and vital to others

The vitality of the diverse disciplines within CAS, and the expertise and passion of our faculty, staff and students, are essential to the whole of UM-Flint and to our community. By strengthening ties with partners outside the College, we will become more integrated on campus, in the Flint region, and beyond.

- We will increase partnerships with employers and civic organizations throughout the community, both to lend our expertise to improve life around us and to ensure that our students have meaningful experiences that prepare them to succeed in a changing society.
- We will engage more with the entirety of campus, including effective participation in faculty governance and deeper integration into student affairs, campus life, and University administration.
- CAS will deepen its connections with other educational institutions in our region, including K-12 schools, community colleges, and other Universities.
- CAS will further support and recognize the value of engaged scholarship and creative activity for both faculty and students.

Leverage the power of a liberal arts education
through innovative curriculum and pedagogy

As a regional comprehensive university, UM-Flint depends on CAS to provide the core liberal arts education for every student. CAS also provides a wide variety of degree programs that help our students succeed as professionals and as citizens. CAS will deepen its commitment to innovate pedagogies, curricular reform, and support services to facilitate student success through both general education courses and our degree programs.

- We will continue our efforts to improve student retention and graduation at the College and department levels.

- We will review proposed and current degree programs to ensure they are high-quality, innovative, and meets students' needs.

- We will provide leadership in crafting, reviewing, and assessing UM-Flint's general education program, and focus on innovative teaching strategies in how we deliver general education courses.

- We will better articulate the meaning and value of a liberal arts education to prospective and current students, University colleagues, alumni, and community partners.

- We will encourage and further incentivize interdisciplinarity in the CAS curriculum.

- We will reinforce the student centered culture of CAS through greater student/faculty interaction and through more systematic advising.

Align resource allocations with CAS strategic priorities

CAS will ensure that the way we allocate our current resources at every level, including personnel, funding and expertise, is sustainable and aligned with our strategic priorities. While we will continue to advocate for further funding through the annual budget process, the Dean, in consultation with CAS, may reallocate resources to maximize our positive impact on the constituents we serve. This process will be driven with an eye toward meeting the needs of CAS in the years to come.

- We will facilitate greater fiscal stability at the College level and in departments that enables sustainable long term planning and prudent use of resources.
- We will work toward greater awareness and transparency about how CAS resources are allocated and the processes used to make those decisions.
- We will more effectively utilize staff time and expertise across CAS and work toward better professional development opportunities for staff.
- We will work toward better and more reliable professional development opportunities for all faculty in relation to both teaching and scholarly/creative activity.
- We will explore ways to better prioritize time to allow for increased scholarship and creative activity.