To: Provost Pamela Whitten  
Date: April 1, 2017  
Re: Academic Affairs Faculty Symposium Recommendations

Dear Provost Whitten,

We list below the results of our discussions related to the Grand Challenge of Domestic & Global Security. We present these recommendations in order of priority.

1. As an important first step, we recommend “tagging” courses related to the Grand Challenges with information that permits them to be easily discoverable. For example, the tagging could capture information on all campus courses related to domestic and global security challenges, such as cybersecurity or infectious diseases.
2. We further recommend the creation of an online course with modules related to each of the Grand Challenges, which can be updated, accompanied by an interdisciplinary in-class course offered each semester on a Grand Challenges theme.
3. Experiential learning opportunities will be identified to facilitate learning with respect to the Grand Challenges. It would help to identify these classes with tagging (as described in number 1 above) as a first step.
4. We recommend the establishment of an annual UGA Grand Challenges theme, rotating through each of the five themes.
5. We recommend dedicating a few sections of new or existing courses relevant to the Grand Challenges to first-year students only.
6. We recommend inviting a high-profile lecturer each semester related to the Grand Challenges theme of the year.
7. We advocate establishing a Grand Challenge essays contest for both undergraduates and graduates, with a $1,000 prize each.
8. We encourage more comprehensive internships related to the Grand Challenges. This would include working closely with our top international partner institutions on the issue of global security.
9. We propose the creation of living and learning communities organized around the Grand Challenges.
10. The University should identify faculty whose research intersects with the Grand Challenge themes, and create research communities with a view to securing extramural grant funding.
11. We advocate the hosting of more professors of practice, as well as visiting alumni, on campus related to the Grand Challenge themes.

We hope you find merit in these proposals, and we thank you for the opportunity to draw them to your attention.

Sincerely,

The Domestic and Global Security Group  
Unicoi Lodge, GA
Grand Challenge Research Themes (Created in 2014 by OIE. It is not up to date, but is a useful starting point. A few new strengths are highlighted with **) 

- Healthy Communities
  - Infectious diseases (Faculty of Infectious Diseases, [http://fid.ovpr.uga.edu/](http://fid.ovpr.uga.edu/); Department of Infectious Diseases, College of Veterinary Medicine, [http://www.vet.uga.edu/id/](http://www.vet.uga.edu/id/))
  - Global disease emergence (Center for Tropical & Emerging Global Diseases, [http://www.ctegd.uga.edu/](http://www.ctegd.uga.edu/))
  - Cancer research (Georgia Cancer Center, [http://cancercenter.uga.edu/](http://cancercenter.uga.edu/))
  - Obesity initiative ([http://obesity.ovpr.uga.edu/](http://obesity.ovpr.uga.edu/))
  - Environmental health sciences (Department of Environmental Health Sciences, [http://www.publichealth.uga.edu/ehs/](http://www.publichealth.uga.edu/ehs/))
  - Epidemiology (Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, [http://www.publichealth.uga.edu/epibio/](http://www.publichealth.uga.edu/epibio/))
  - Behavioral sciences (Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, [http://www.ibr.uga.edu/](http://www.ibr.uga.edu/))
    - Center for Research on Behavioral Health & Human Services Delivery ([http://www.ibr.uga.edu/centers_groups/behavioral_health.htm](http://www.ibr.uga.edu/centers_groups/behavioral_health.htm))
    - Center for Family Research ([http://www.cfr.uga.edu/](http://www.cfr.uga.edu/))
    - Center for Gambling Research
    - Center for Gene-Social Environment Transactions ([http://www.ibr.uga.edu/centers_groups/gene.htm](http://www.ibr.uga.edu/centers_groups/gene.htm))
  - Aging research (Institute of Gerontology, [http://www.publichealth.uga.edu/geron/](http://www.publichealth.uga.edu/geron/))
  - Food safety and security (Center for Food Safety, [http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/personnel/deptunit.cfm?caesdept=Center%20for%20Food%20Safety](http://www.caes.uga.edu/applications/personnel/deptunit.cfm?caesdept=Center%20for%20Food%20Safety))

**Health informatics Institute has been created since this document was created

- Environmental Sustainability
  - Sustainable conservation (Center for Integrative Conservation Research, [http://cicr.ovpr.uga.edu/](http://cicr.ovpr.uga.edu/))
  - Climate change research (Climate & Society initiative, [http://climateandsociety.ovpr.uga.edu/](http://climateandsociety.ovpr.uga.edu/))
  - Forestry management (Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources, [http://www.forestry.uga.edu/](http://www.forestry.uga.edu/))


- Security
  - Energy security and independence (Bioenergy Systems Research Institute, [http://bioenergy.uga.edu](http://bioenergy.uga.edu))

**A new cybersecurity certificate has been established since this document was created.
Core Strengths

- Stem cells/regenerative medicine (Regenerative Bioscience Center, http://rbc.uga.edu/)
- Drug discovery/molecular medicine (Center for Drug Discovery, http://www.uga-cdd.org; Center for Molecular Medicine)
- Biological imaging (BiolImaging Research Center, http://psychology.uga.edu/BIRC/)
- Biological optical microscopy (Coverdell Microscopy Core, http://cmc.uga.edu/)
- Microbiology (Department of Microbiology, http://mib.uga.edu/)
- Next-generation sequencing, genotyping (Georgia Genomics Facility, http://dna.uga.edu/)
- Biopharma regulation (Pharmaceutical & Biomedical Regulatory Affairs graduate program, http://ra.rx.uga.edu/)
- Carbohydrate chemistry, glycomics (Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, http://www.ccrc.uga.edu/)
- Nano(bio)technology (Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center, http://nano.ovpr.uga.edu/)
- Bioinformatics (Institute of Bioinformatics, http://www.bioinformatics.uga.edu/)