

Principles to Guide Innovation

Preamble: In order to preserve its academic excellence, reputation and competitiveness, given the projections for continued economic pressures and explosive student growth, the University System of Georgia must accelerate the pace of innovation in both administrative and academic areas. The following principles are designed both to facilitate and motivate a climate of innovation throughout the System. The Board of Regents assumes that any proposed innovations will be of a high quality and student focused. It also assumes that institutions will fuel innovation through the capture of operating efficiencies and the vigorous pursuit of both incremental and diversified resources outside of normal state and student funding processes.

Principles: Institutions should:

1. Give priority to innovations that enhance and hone their present mission rather than expanding missions.
2. Consider innovations that increase student learning, research and faculty productivity. (Included in this area would be such things as novel and innovative uses of technology, curricular assessment and redesign as well as an evaluation of accelerated degree programs.)
3. Investigate innovations that challenge our existing student life, academic and academic support structures.
4. Consider innovations that reprogram existing infrastructure use. (This would include such things as maximizing the use of facilities throughout the entire calendar year, the entire academic week and the entire academic day while fully utilizing academic related technology. This would also include expanded internships and study abroad opportunities.)
5. Give priority within the limits of their mission to academic programs that meet demonstrated state need.
6. Utilize the collective power of the University System. (This would include such things as collaboration with other System institutions, development of pilot programs that could be scalable within the System, new initiatives built upon transferable “best practices” from within the System or beyond.)
7. Be prepared to take measured risks in the process of innovation.

Support: The BOR Office will be available as a resource and will give institutional proposals for innovative practices that require policy changes an expedited review and response.

Accountability: Presidents will be evaluated, in part, on their ability to be vigorous and innovative leaders who have engaged their entire campus communities in the process of rethinking the institution's future path in a scarce resource and increasingly complex world.