ABE@Illinois Vision 2020

Strategic Plan

Vision Story:
Imagine a world with abundant food, energy and water and a healthy environment

Vision (What we aspire to be)

We will be a preeminent agricultural and biological engineering department in learning, discovery, engagement and economic development by integrating engineering, technology and biological sciences, while maintaining a collegial environment emphasizing professional and personal development.

Mission (What we do best for whom)

We integrate engineering, technology and life sciences for enhancement of complex living systems in global agriculture, food, energy, water, and environment by providing student-centered educational experiences in engineering and technical systems management, conducting high impact research, and sharing value-added information, knowledge, skills, and wisdom.

Goals and Objectives (E.V.E.R.):

I. Pursue Excellence in all aspects of the department
   1. Strengthen research portfolio
   2. Increase endowed professorships and graduate fellowships

II. Create a Value proposition for all stakeholders and clientele
   1. Emphasize student outcomes and relevant curricula and co-curricula
   2. Provide scholarly leadership and increase impactful outcomes

III. Nurture an Environment that enables success
   1. Promote culture of accountability
   2. Enhance collegiality

IV. Generate and use Resources to advance departmental goals
   1. Increase and diversify funding
   2. Utilize physical infrastructure efficiently

Actions:

I. Improve what we are doing –
   1. Formalize the Faculty Mentoring Program
   2. Enhance the Outcome Assessment Committee
   3. Enhance co-curricular activities
   4. Enhance undergraduate and graduate recruitment
   5. Solicit feedback from stakeholders on curricula and co-curricula
   6. Develop professional courses for continuing education in areas of excellence

II. Initiate new tasks –
   1. Identify department/faculty focus areas (as represented by dissertation titles, Hatch project titles)
   2. Modernize and leverage department web presence
   3. Optimize effectiveness and efficiency of space and equipment utilization (including Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory, a.k.a. IBRL)
   4. Increase number of submitted and funded proposals
   5. Implement culture of clear expectations and accountability
   6. Add mandatory, mid-semester meetings; one for faculty only and one for the entire department
   7. Update faculty activities via short presentations (e.g. TED talks) in 14 seminars periodically
   8. Provide impact statements (e.g. quantifiable changes in people, organizations, domains, etc.) during annual reviews
   9. Appoint a person to liaise with the advancement office

Domains (The subjects of disciplinary relevance and impact):

Agricultural and Biological Systems and Technology – Precision and information agriculture; Plant and animal production; Sustainable agricultural intensification; Big data, informatics, and analytics; Health; Safety

Food and Bioproducts – Processes and products; Security and safety

Energy – Renewable energy; Energy efficiency

Water – Land and water resources; Water quality and use

Environment – Air, soil, and water quality; Built environment

Biological Engineering – Biotechnology; Biosensors

Measurements:

I. Research expenditures from competitive (especially Federal) sources
II. Graduate student program analytics
III. Peer-reviewed articles and citations
IV. Submitted research proposals
V. Funded extramural projects
VI. Recognition via awards from colleges, campus, and beyond
VII. Student placement records
VIII. Student co-curricular activities
IX. Alumni and friends giving
X. Results of student climate surveys
XI. Space availability and needs survey for collaboration and/or reallocation

Core Values (What we believe in):

In everything we do, we value

☐ Excellence
☐ Integrity and Ethics
☐ Creativity and Innovation
☐ Science-Based Scholarship
☐ Inclusiveness and Collegiality