

**SELF-ASSESSMENT - SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
UGA MICROBIOLOGY**

Condition #1: *The right people apply for doctoral study.*

Condition #2: *The right applicants are admitted as doctoral students*

Condition #3: *Students and faculty form productive working relationships*

Condition #4: *Students experience social support from fellow students*

Conditions	Goals /Activities	Timeline
1	<p>Goal:</p> <p>It is important to get applicants who have strong undergraduate training in Microbiology and who have research experience. This year we will target 5 schools/programs and work with faculty/students in those schools/programs to attract applicants (in addition to many other ongoing recruitment activities). These programs are listed below</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve relationship with Microbiology faculty at the University of Florida to attract their undergrad 2. Improve relationship with Microbiology/Biology faculty at Savannah State University to attract their undergraduates (representative of a historically black/minority serving school). 3. Improve relationship with High Point University (North Carolina) to attract undergraduate applicants (representative of a regional principally undergraduate institution). 4. Increase recruitment from our department's NSF funded REU program. Increase recruitment from UGA's SURP program. <p>Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussions have been initiated with Dr. Madeline Rasche (Graduate Coordinator) and Dr. Eric Triplett (Department Chair). We are looking to improve connections and to start developing student exchange programs. Dr. Madeline Rasche plans to visit Athens in July 2006. This meeting will be used to plan new initiatives. 2. Dr. Ellen Neidle (Graduate Coordinator) recently visited Savannah State University and worked with Dr. Julius Afalobi to meet students and to encourage students to apply to our UGA programs. To follow up on the April 2006 visit, recruiting efforts will be reinforced in October 2006. Recruiting material will 	<p>July 2006</p> <p>October 2006</p>

	<p>be sent to specific faculty members, and we will ask for contact information for specific students. Material will be sent to individuals and followed up by subsequent email/phone communications.</p> <p>3. High Point has a strong undergraduate program. There are currently two graduate students in our department who came from High Point. Those two students will be involved in student-to-student efforts to attract top-notch undergraduate applicants. Those students will work with their former faculty mentors to identify select students. In September/October 2006 we will target specific application material and communications with the help of our grad students to potential applicants. This will initiate a new “student ambassador” program for recruitment.</p> <p>4. This year we will improve coordination and follow-up of our UGA participants in the 2006 summer program. In August 2006, our graduate coordinator will talk to the REU participants about our graduate program. In October, we will have follow up contact where the REU participant’s UGA mentor will directly communicate with each student and discuss the student’s plans. We will encourage the best students to apply to our graduate program.</p> <p>5. We will encourage improved contact and communication with the UGA SURP students. In Summer 2006 we will encourage students and faculty to meet SURP students with an interest in the biological sciences. Our graduate coordinator will work with UGA program directors to make contact with individual students and will later follow up by providing application material.</p> <p>Measurement of success: We will keep track of student applications from the programs listed above. Our target is to receive five to ten applications from the programs listed above.</p> <p>The development of new initiatives (for example for University of Florida) will be documented. Target goals for those programs will be established.</p>	<p>Sept./Oct. 2006</p> <p>August 2006</p> <p>Summer 2006</p>
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2	<p>Goal: It is very important that all faculty members in the department participate in the evaluation of applicant folders and in interviewing our top recruits during our recruitment weekend. Our goal is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have all our faculty members involved in this process so that students accepted into the program are those that we assess to fit best with our department. • Have 8 to 10 faculty members provide input on each applicant folder. This input will be noted on a page in each folder. • Have each applicant attending our recruiting weekend meet one-on-one with at least three faculty members and interact with graduate student hosts. <p>Actions/Time line:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will solicit information from faculty members throughout the fall by email communications and by getting written/verbal comments on all applicants' folders. 2. Individual interviews will be set up between possible faculty mentors and applicants during our recruitment weekend. Faculty members will review applicant folders throughout late fall 2006 and early spring 2007. Our recruitment weekend is already scheduled for Feb. 15-18, 2007. 3. Follow-up communications and phone calls with top applicants will be made throughout this time period by members of the graduate affairs committee. <p>Measurement of success: Success will be measured as receiving feedback from all faculty interviewers so that acceptance letters could be sent to the best students. Feedback was solicited from all who participate in the recruitment weekend.</p>	Fall 2006- Early Spring 2007
3	<p>Goal: To improve communication between students and faculty</p> <p>Actions/Time line:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. .Several meetings will be scheduled annually to identify and address strengths and weaknesses of our program (beyond ongoing, normal annual committee meetings). At the annual meetings with the department head and 	Spring 2006 –Summer 2006

	<p>graduate coordinator, requests will be made to identify problems or issues of concern from both students and faculty. Our goals are to address all problems identified.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Additional information will be added to our program web site (WebCT MIBO8150) after discussion with the graduate students concerning what would be helpful. By The departmental web site will be updated by August 2006 3. One student meeting will be held annually with the department head, one with the Graduate Coordinator. One meeting just took place on May 11 with Dr. Krause. Another meeting with the Graduate Coordinator and interested graduate students will be held summer 2006. <p>Measurement of success: Productive working relationships can be measured both as positive outcomes (publications) and as perceived success (sense of satisfaction by students and faculty). We will measure success by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student publications have been recorded and publicized. • We have acknowledged 10-20 peer-reviewed publications with student authors annually. • All identified problems and issues of concern were addressed • The Graduate Affairs Committee had discussed all items of concern. • The web site shows discussion postings for improved communications. 	
4	<p>Goal: To establish a new student support group that will meet once per month.</p> <p>Actions/Time line:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Starting summer 2006 a student-led group will be developed under the aegis of our current president of the Microbiology Graduate Student Association, Laura Williams. The Graduate Affairs Committee, Graduate Coordinator and Microbiology faculty have volunteered to help in any way that the students would like. Students will select topics for each meeting. <p>Measurement of success: A survey will be given to students after they have held 9 to 10</p>	<p>Summer 2006</p> <p>May 2007</p>

	meetings. We aim to evaluate this program and possible ways to improve it in May 2007.	
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