Assistant Dean Hired for Newly Created Academic and Strategic Initiatives Position

The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy has created the new position of Assistant Dean for Academic and Strategic Initiatives to assist the Dean on a wide range of issues relating to the College’s programs and future plans.

The position is responsible for evaluating and overseeing the implementation of strategies and goals that are developed in line with academic and programmatic long-range plans. Responsibilities include monitoring the external environment for changes in the health sciences field affecting the College and its various programs, overseeing the development of new strategies and academic initiatives, and overseeing the implementation and progress of strategic and academic initiatives within the College. Tracking the progress of long-range plans including assuming responsibility for addressing areas that are not meeting expectation, generating reports and responding to inquiries for internal and external agencies will also be included in the job duties.

Joan Watson, who is currently coordinator of assessment and program evaluation in UGA’s Office of the Vice President for Instruction, will assume the new position on August 1. Her UGA experiences include developing evaluation plans for education programs, creating and implementing relevant instruments to assess course-level and program-level successes and areas for improvement, and assisting with establishing strategic priorities, benchmarks, and measurement goals for undergraduate education within UGA’s strategic plan. Watson had previously been Director of the Pre-education, Career and Graduate School Advising at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

She earned a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at Virginia Tech in 2011, along with a graduate certificate in Cognition and Education. She received master’s and bachelor’s degrees in English, also at Virginia Tech, in 1996 and 1993, respectively.