Developing a Strategic Framework for Online Teaching and Learning
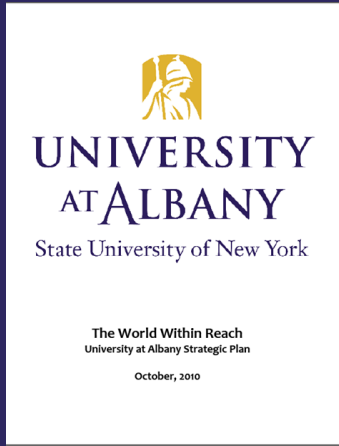
University at Albany

May 10, 2013

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THE W RLD WITHIN REACH

Briefing

- Online teaching and learning at UAlbany

- Some SUNY and national context

- Highlights of the findings of the Strategic Planning Work Group
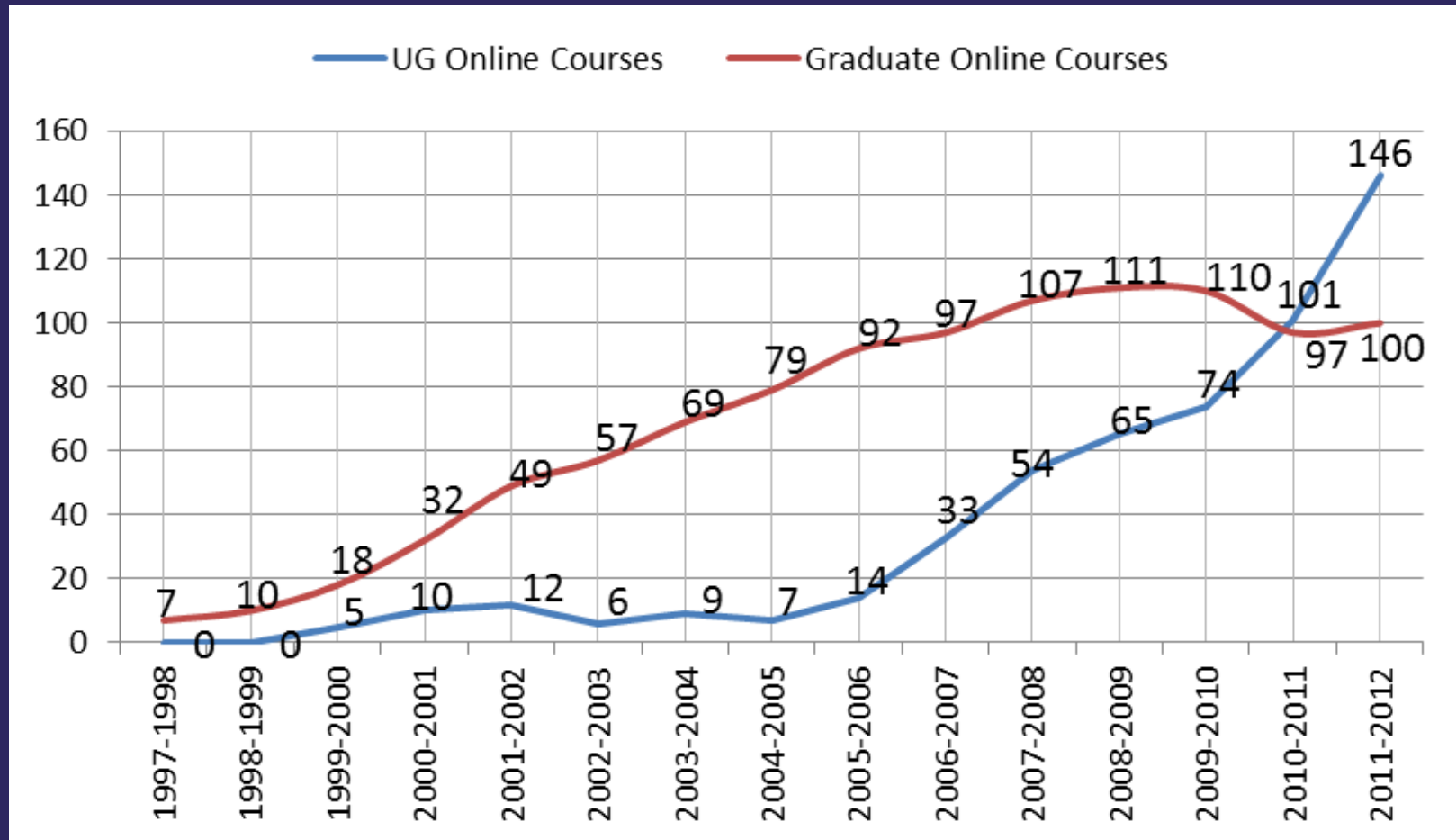
- Next steps

2010 Strategic Plan Objectives

- More "strategic" and intentional expansion of online opportunities

- Increased access to UAlbany programs for professional, adult and "nontraditional" student populations

- Enhanced educational experience for students

- Ensure attractive options for high-ability students in an increasingly challenging enrollment environment

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The World Within Reach
University at Albany Strategic Plan

October, 2010

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UAlbany Recent History in Online Education

- Fully online degree program, master's in Reading, developed in the 1990s
- Four additional online graduate degrees:
  - MS in Early Childhood Education (Literacy)
  - MS in Childhood Education (Literacy)
  - MS in Curriculum Development and Instructional Technology
  - Master of Public Health
- Grad Certs. in Online Teaching and Learning and Public Health

UAlbany online course offerings

UAlbany Initiatives

- Summer/Winter Sessions has been an important vehicle for online course development:
  - Winter 2013: 65 courses (58 (44 GE) UG + 7 GR)
  - Summer 2013: 108 courses (75 (50 GE) UG + 33 GR)
  - Courses fill up quickly

- 2012-13:
  - Fall 2012: 50 courses (15 (7 GE) UG and 35 GR)
  - Spring 2013: 60 courses (14 (4 GE) UG and 46 GR)
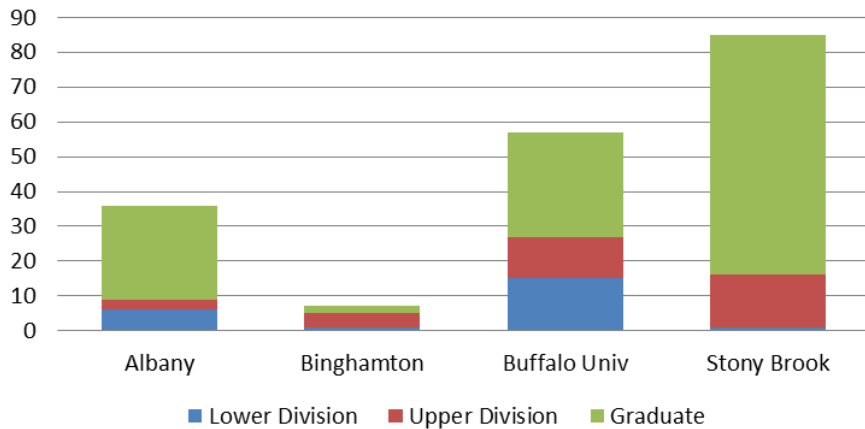
Other UAlbany Initiatives

- Thanks to 2008 Sloan Foundation grant for blended learning, increased capacity for using online instructional resources: Education, Public Health, Social Welfare, CAS

- ITS expanded the staff and programs for faculty (blended, OTL, and face-2-face)
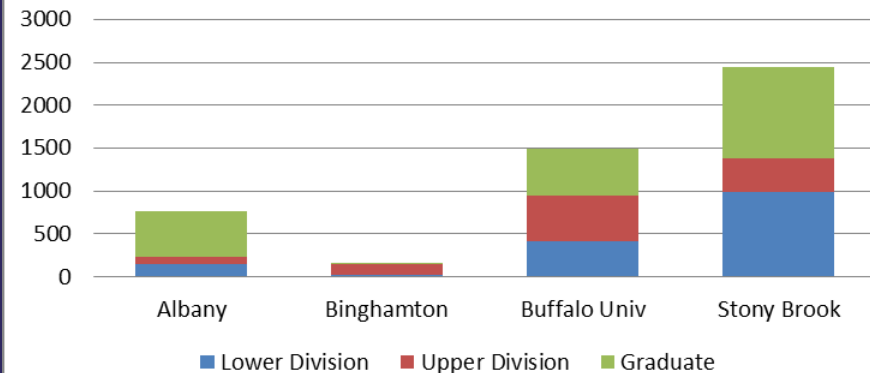
Other UAlbany Initiatives

- ITS/ITLAL "flipped classroom" project is working with faculty to reformat classes to offer information exchange online and interaction in classroom

- Proposal accepted by SUNY for a new fully online undergrad program in IT

What's happening at the SUNY University Centers

Fall 2011 Online Courses

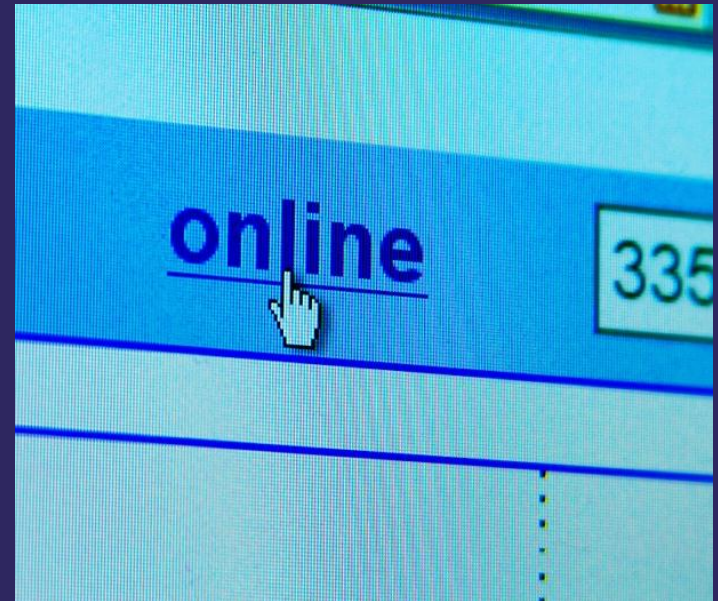Fall 2011 Enrollment in Online Courses

"OPEN SUNY"

- Substantially increased emphasis on online teaching and learning, access and "systemness" in Chancellor's State of the University. Wide-ranging plan includes goals to:
    1. improve degree completion and time to degree
    2. Develop and deliver a targeted set of online degree and certificate programs
    3. Scale up innovation and research of online environments
    4. Provide a robust set of federated services and infrastructure to support quality online learning and promote student success
    5. Offer workforce development programs in online formats and environments that serve the needs of working adults

What's happening nationally

- According to the Babson's survey research group in fall 2010:
  - Online course enrollment over the past decade has grown between 10% and 36% annually, while higher education enrollment growth has grown only .6% to 4% annually
  - 31% of students take at least one online course
  - 6.1 million students were enrolled in an online course
- Institutions are focused on technology but also concerned about quality and integrity questions

Strategic Planning Work Group Project for this year

- 60 faculty and staff in 4 task groups:

  1. Creating a shared vision for online teaching and learning

  2. Creating a "one stop" resource for faculty

  3. Supporting and engaging students

  4. Ensuring technology support

- Reviewed Sloan Consortium "Quality Scorecard" for online programs to identify strengths and gaps

Key preliminary recommendations

- Clear mission for online teaching and learning at UAlbany must include

  – High quality experience for students

  – Responsibility to provide broad access

  – Identity as a research institution

Key preliminary recommendations

- Office of online learning to lead and coordinate

- Involvement of academic units as well as individual faculty

- Structures and practices to encourage faculty to engage online teaching and new technologies

- More student support and training to ensure success in online courses

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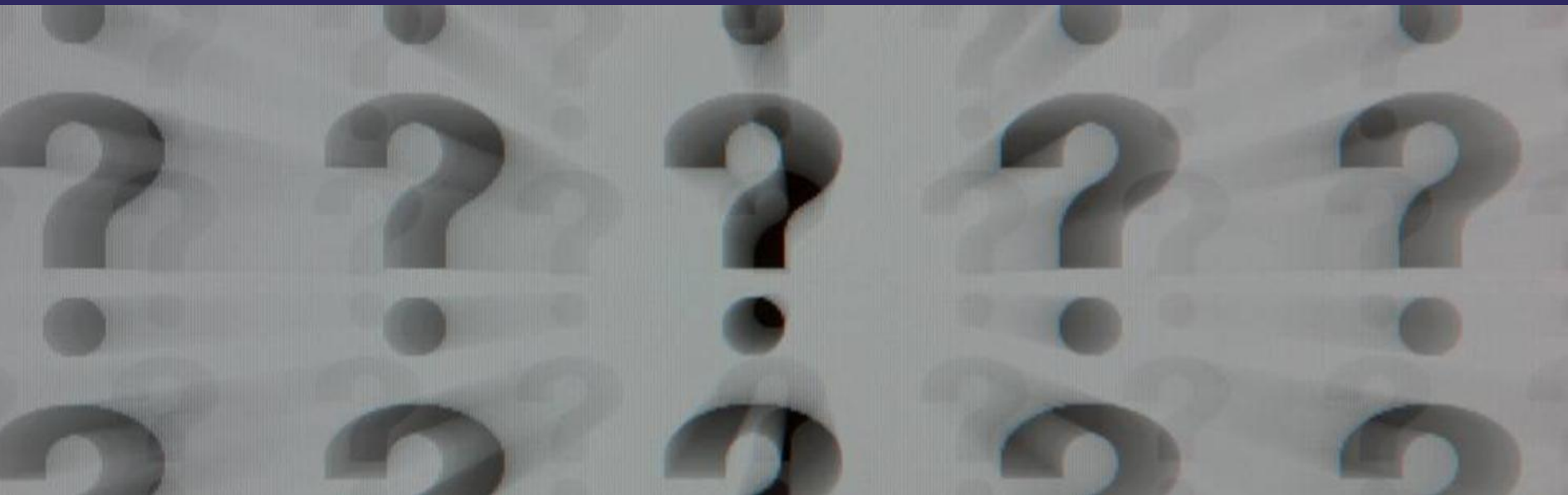State University of New York

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Next steps at UAlbany

- Additional analysis of faculty and student surveys
- Framework to guide expansion
  - Departmental conversations
  - Technical enhancements
  - Support for students and faculty
- Planning the IT Online program
- Pilots, tests, experiments

UAlbany
Online Teaching and Learning

Your questions and comments?