


# *Advancing our Excellence*

**Michael D. Amiridis**  
**Professor and Provost**

A large, semi-transparent watermark of the University of South Carolina logo is visible on the right side of the slide. The logo features a stylized palmetto tree above a building, with the year '180' at the bottom.

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The background features a large, semi-transparent watermark of the University of South Carolina logo. The logo consists of a stylized palmetto tree on the left and a building on the right, with the year '180' at the bottom. The entire watermark is rendered in a light gray color.

# What defines a global research university?

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- Innovative Teaching
  - Robust Research
    - Community engagement

*Outstanding people in a culture  
that promotes innovation*

# Goal of the Office of the Provost

**Enhance the quality of our  
academic programs**



- The Student Experience
  - The Faculty
    - Selected Strategic initiatives

# *Planning for the Future: An Academic Dashboard*

**Michael D. Amiridis**  
**Professor and Provost**

**Provost Forum**  
**January 6, 2012**

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*What is a “dashboard” ?*



# A set of metrics that allows us to...

- Document and monitor progress
- Compare and contrast with other institutions
- Set targets for the future
- Develop strategies to achieve these targets
- Allocate resources to support these strategies

# Critical decisions

- Selection of metrics
  - Relatively small number
  - Broad impact
  - Students and faculty
- Selection of comparison groups
  - Peer and peer-aspirant
  - Similar mission and size
  - Competitors

# Dashboard parameters

- Students
  - Total UG enrollment
  - Average SAT score
  - Freshman-Sophomore retention rate
  - 6-year graduation rate
- Faculty
  - Student-to-faculty ratio
  - Research expenditures
  - National awards
  - Doctoral degrees

# Comparison groups

- Peer group
  - Rutgers University
  - University of Connecticut
  - University of Georgia
  - University of Kentucky
  - University of Tennessee
- Peer-aspirant group
  - Indiana University
  - University of Maryland
  - University of Missouri
  - University of North Carolina
  - University of Virginia

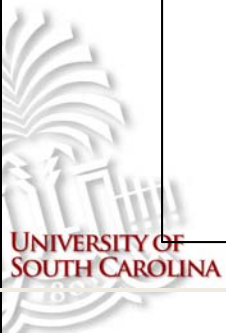
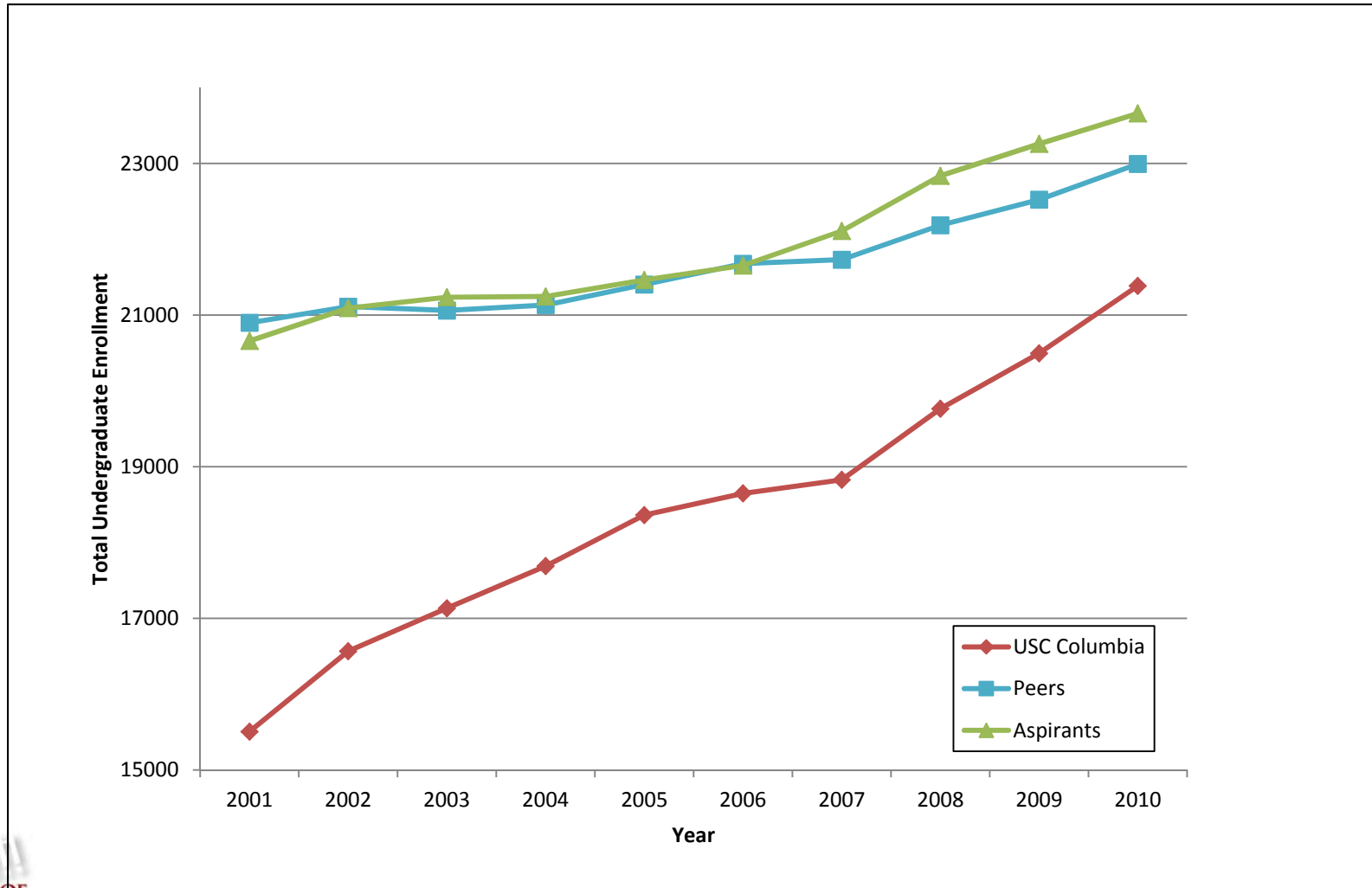
# *Student Metrics*



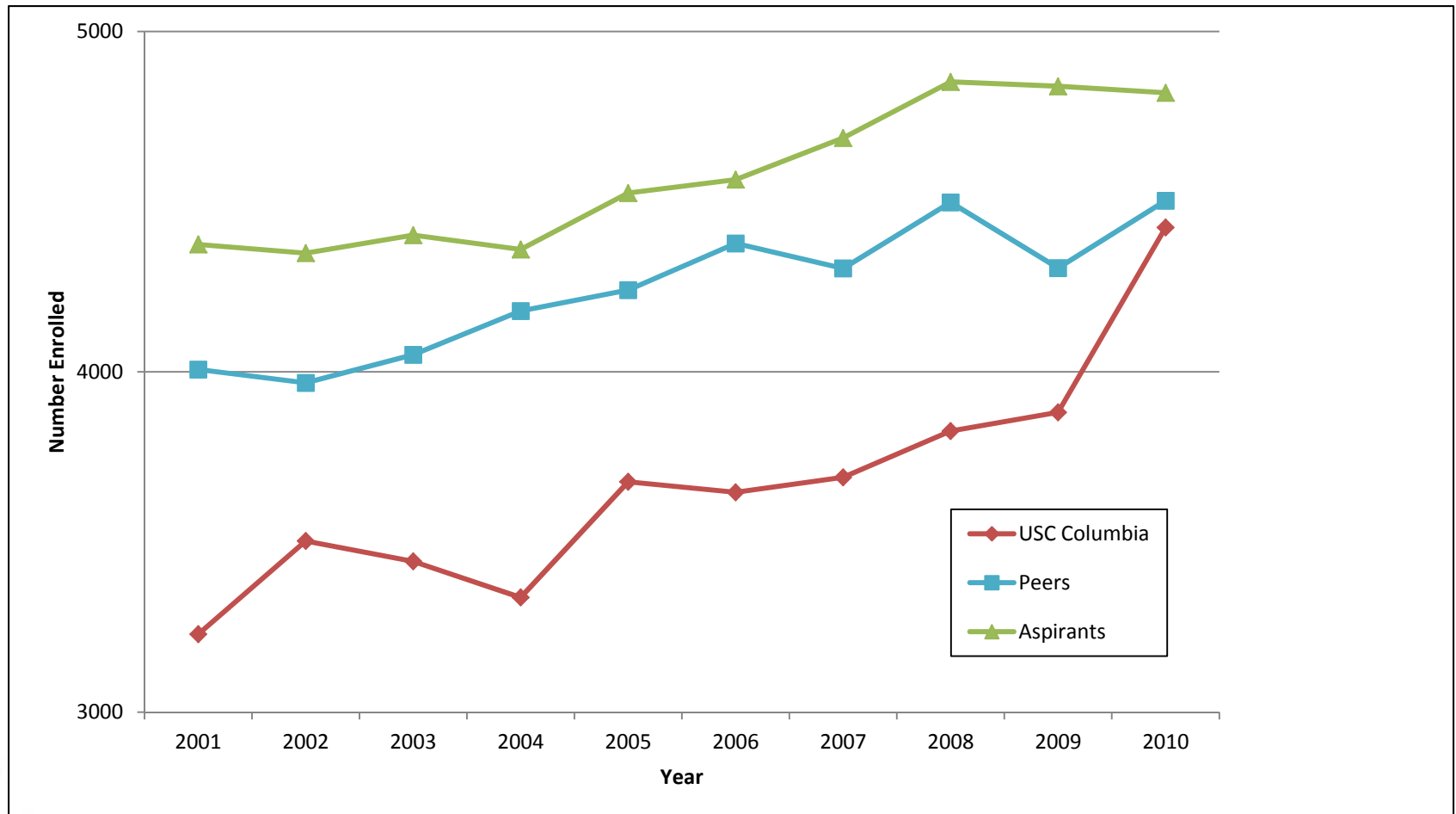
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# #1 Total UG enrollment



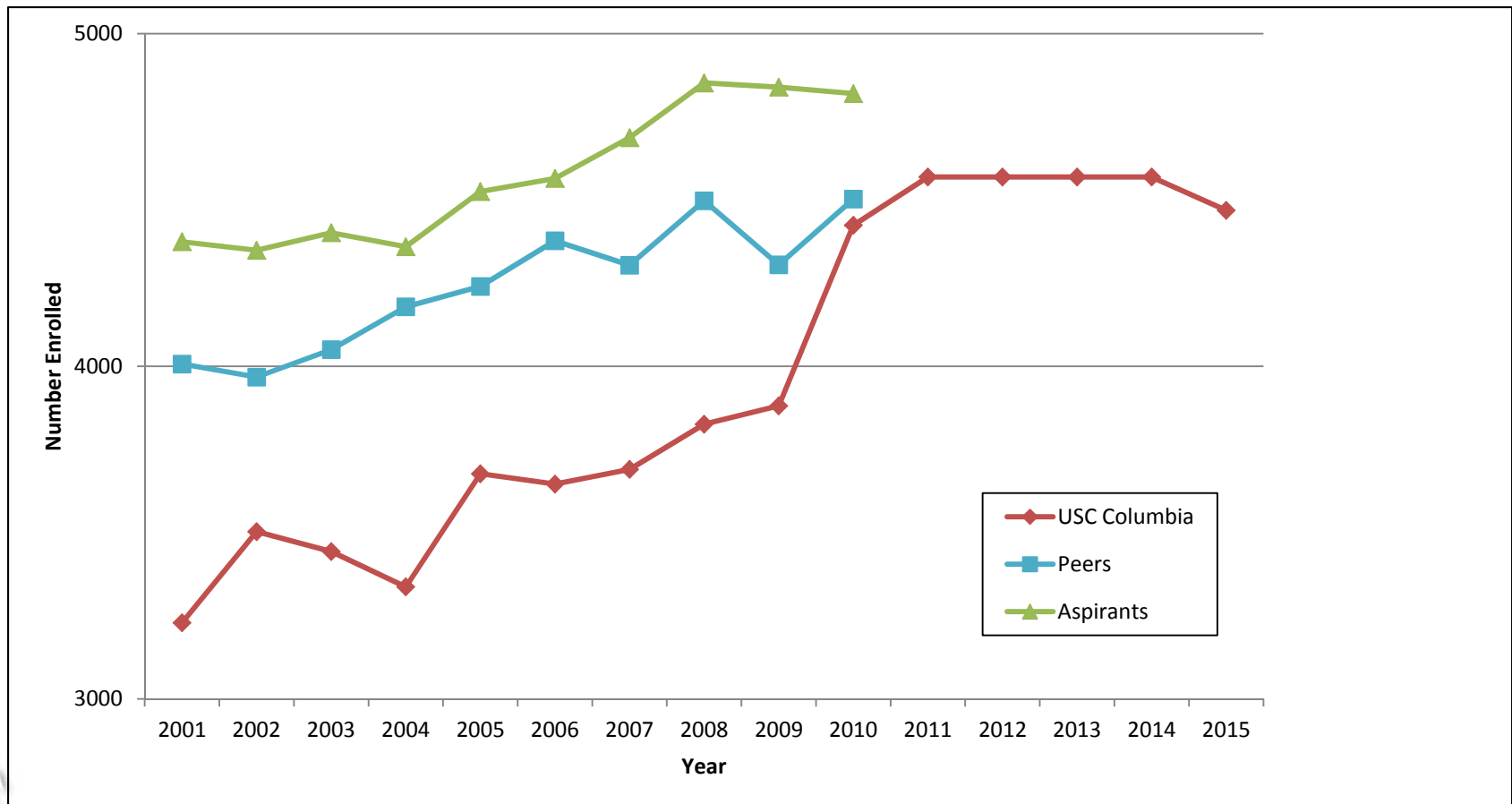
# First-time full-time freshmen



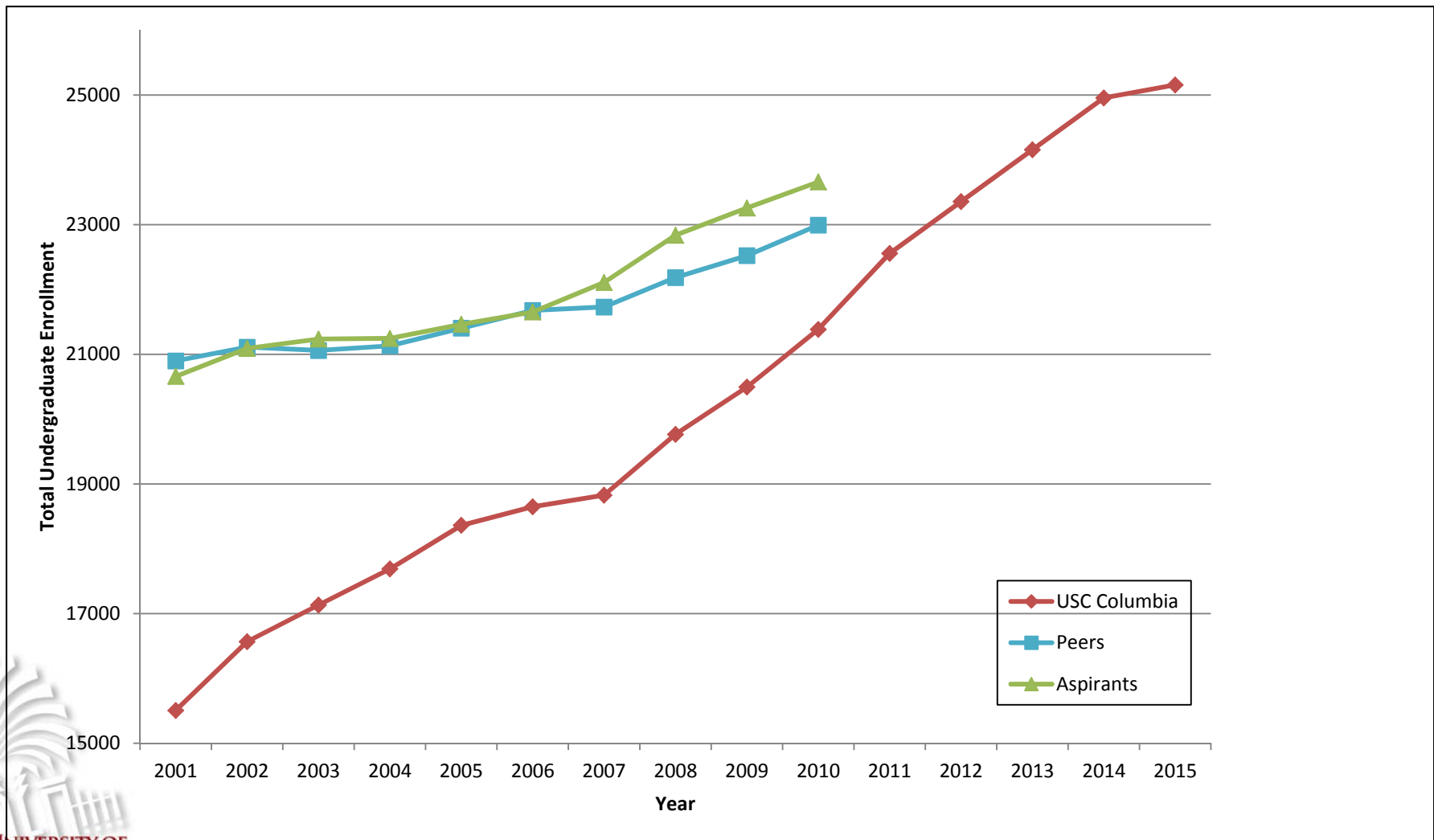
# Currently at capacity

- Laboratories and classrooms
  - Biology labs
  - 50-60 student classrooms
  - 100+ student classrooms
- Faculty and student services staff
- Residence halls

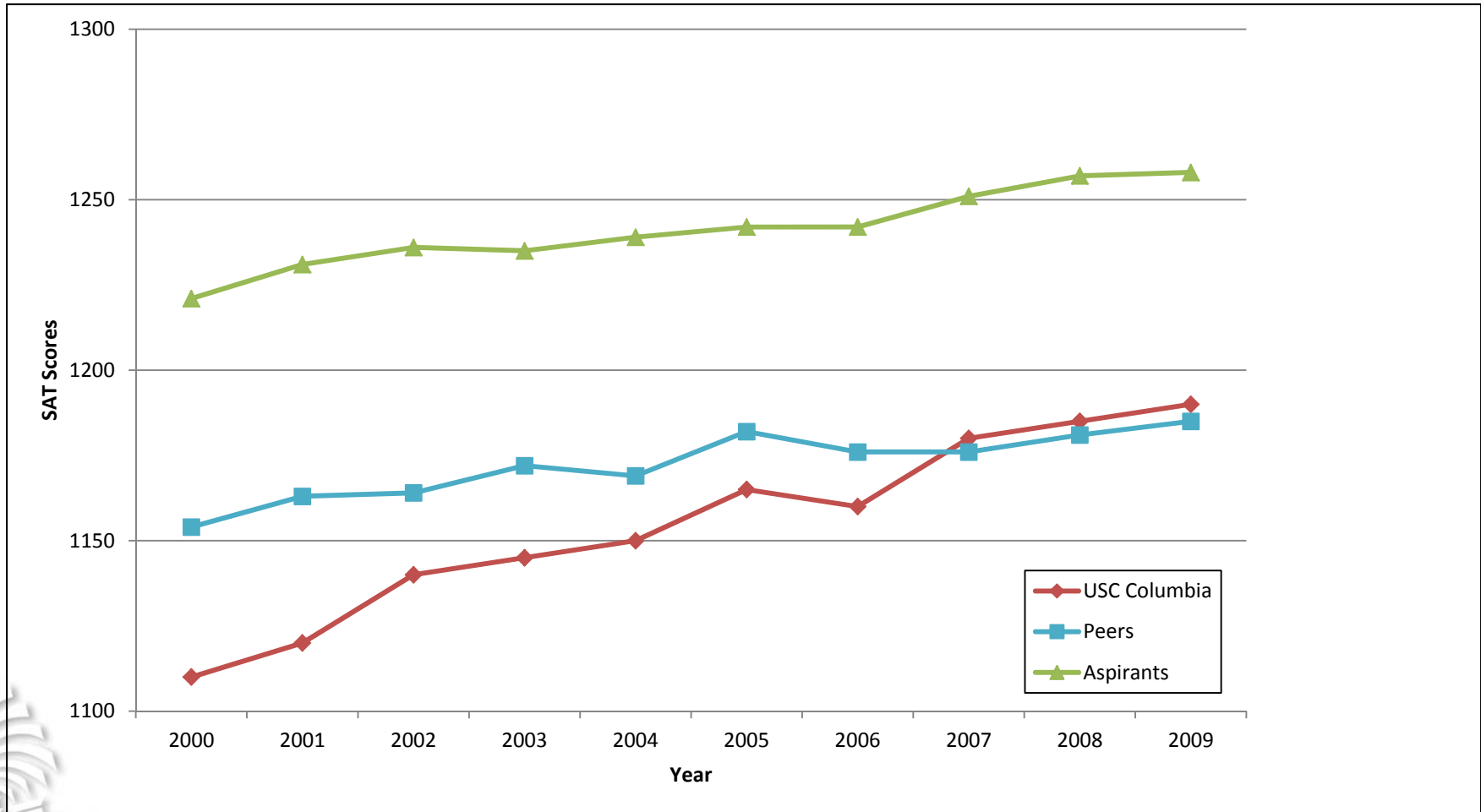
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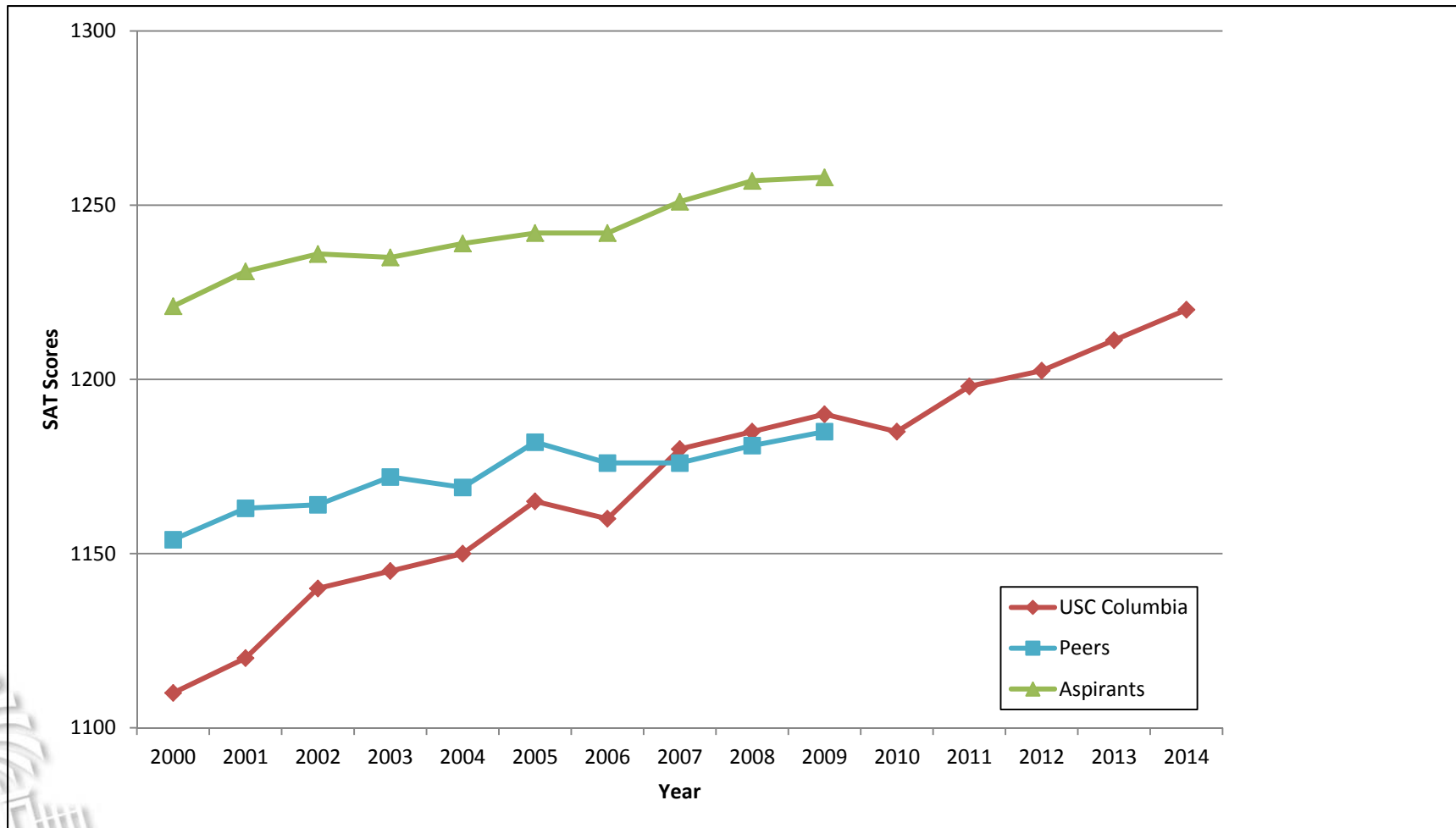
# #1 Total UG enrollment



# #2 Average SAT score



# #2 Average SAT score



# Strategies

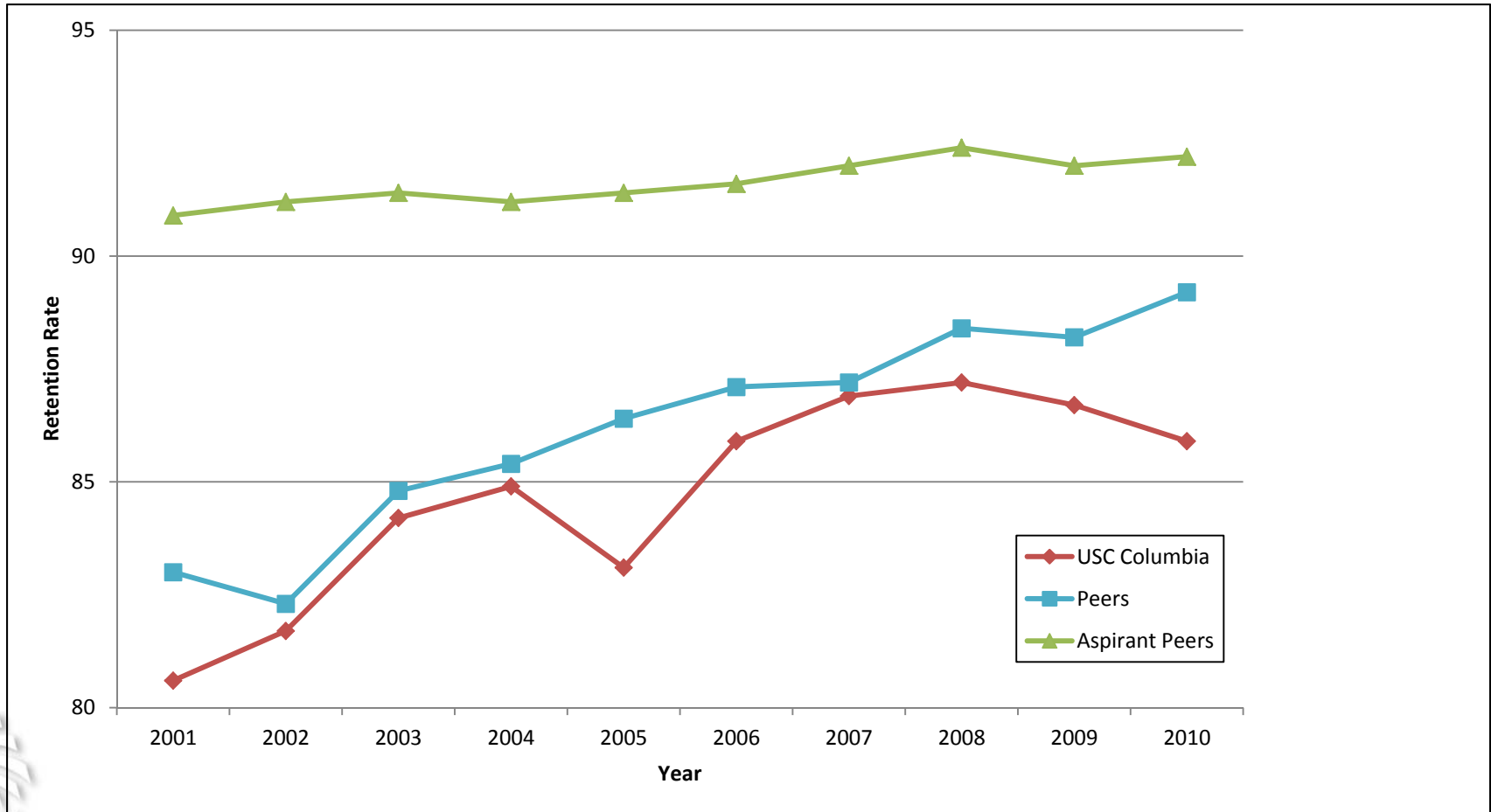
- Continue strong in-state and out-of-state recruiting efforts
  - Support local recruiters in key areas
- Increase size and further enhance SCHC and Capstone programs
  - Core SCHC faculty program
- Increase available scholarship funds



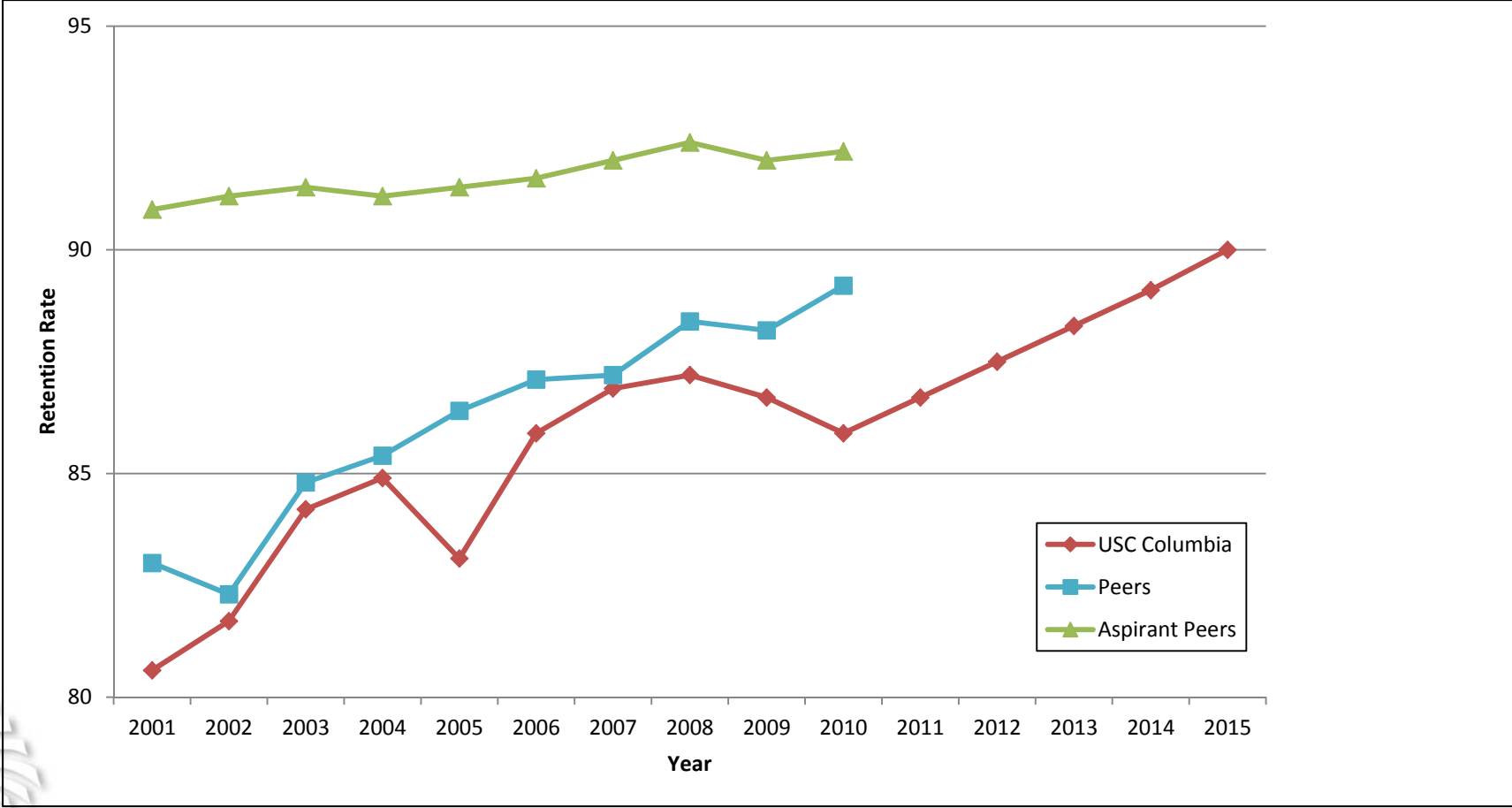
# Potential issues

- Difficult goal in view of current limitations in terms of
  - Size of Freshman class
  - In-state/out-of-state percentages
  - SC average SAT scores
- Need to secure multiple pipelines/alternative paths
  - Residential bridge programs

# #3 Freshman-Sophomore retention rate



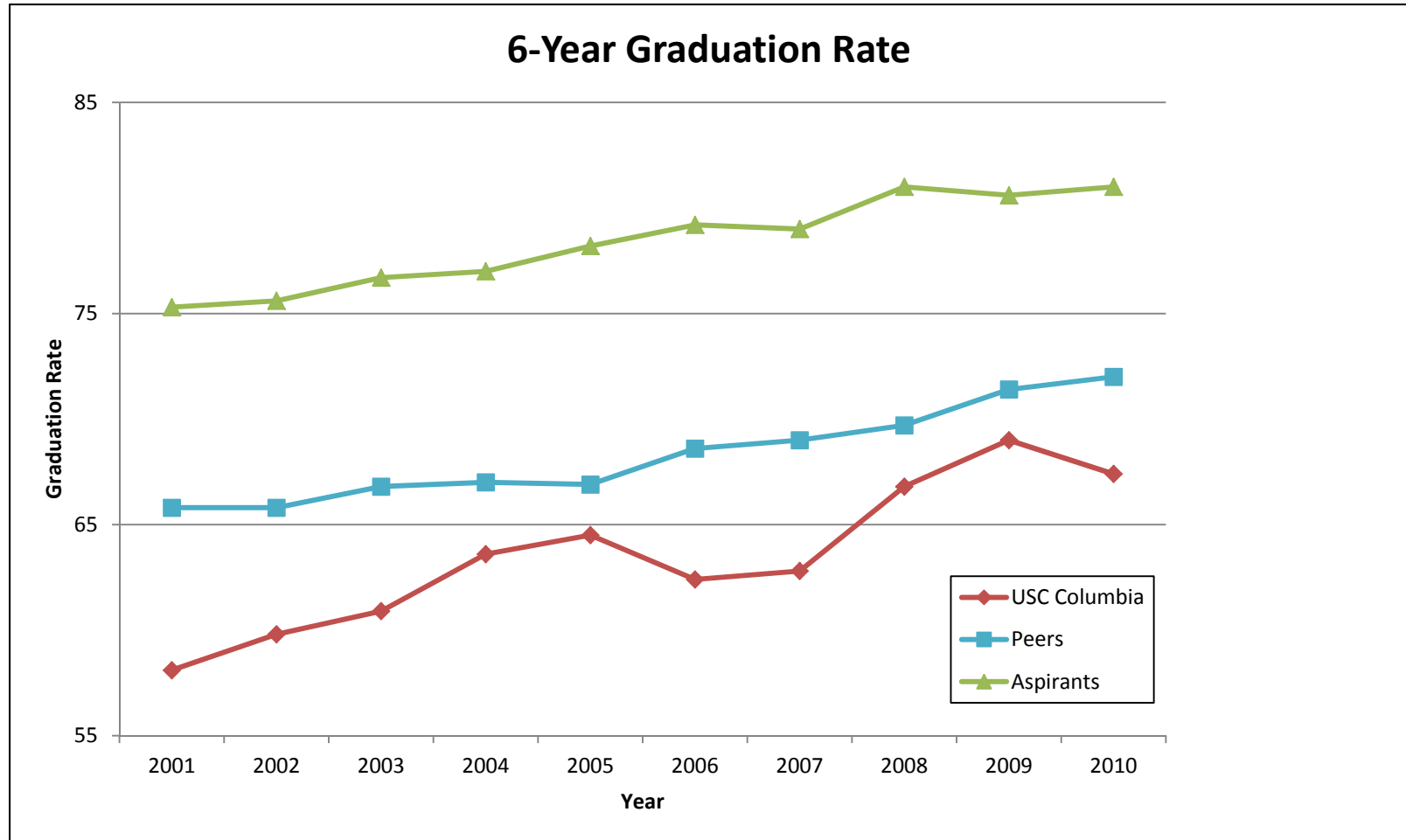
# #3 Freshman-Sophomore retention rate



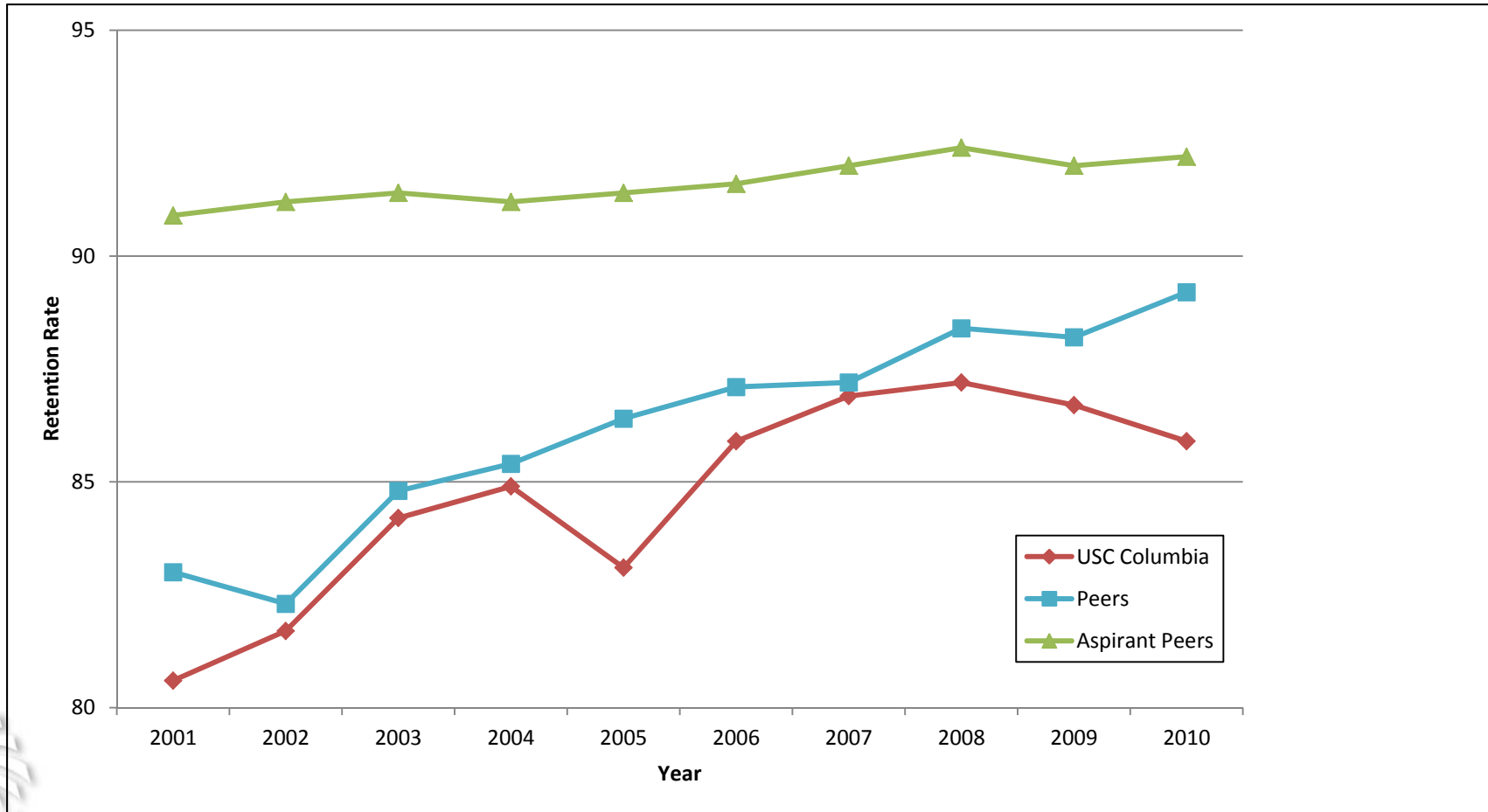
# Strategies

- Enhance student support services
  - Early intervention
  - Supplemental instruction
  - Faculty “buy-in”
- Coherent curriculum
  - Gen Ed requirements
  - USC Connect
  - Time to degree
- Key freshman courses
- Shared responsibility with the Colleges
- Increase thematic residence halls opportunities
  - Preston and Maxcy

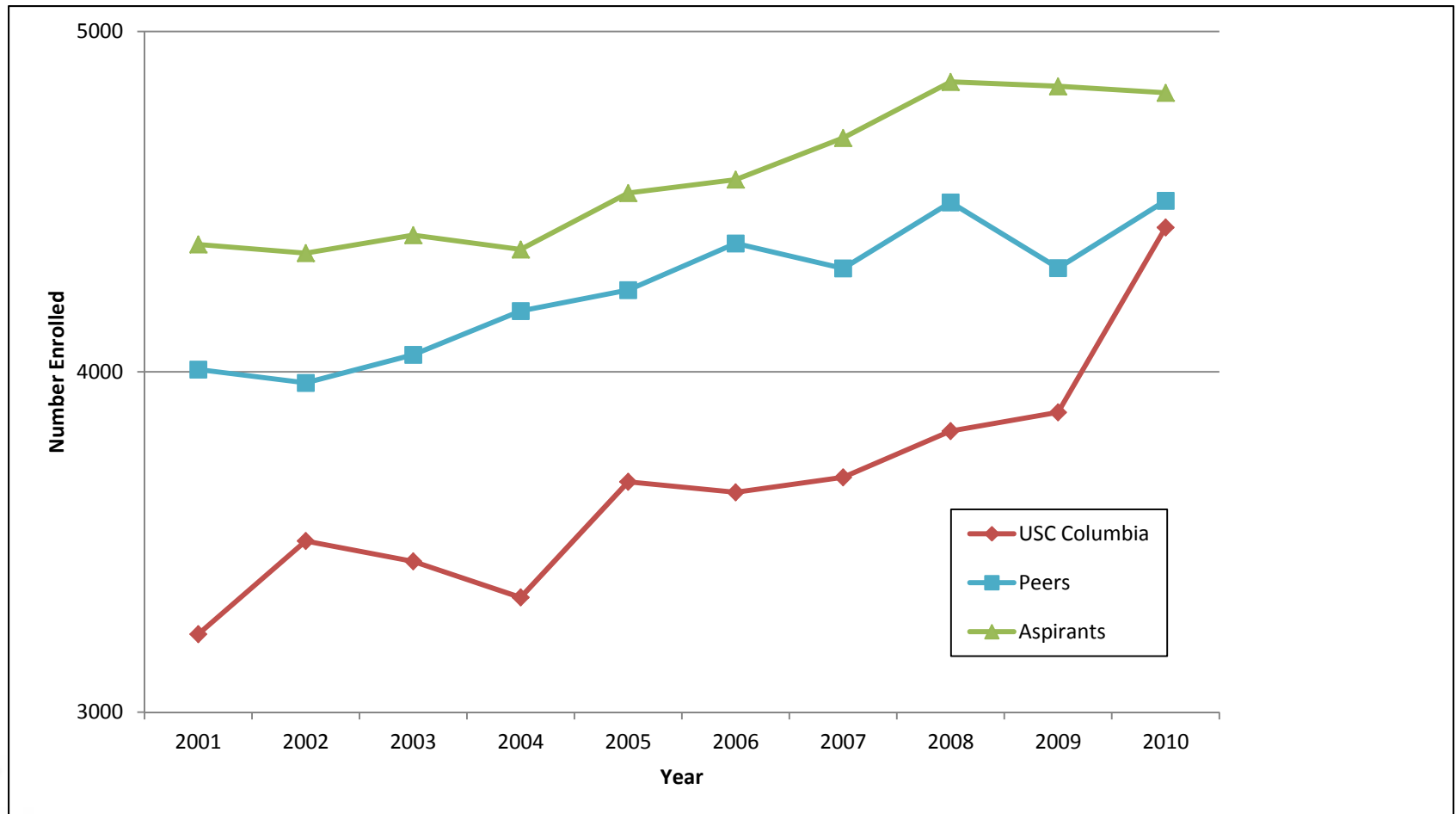
# #4 6-year graduation rate



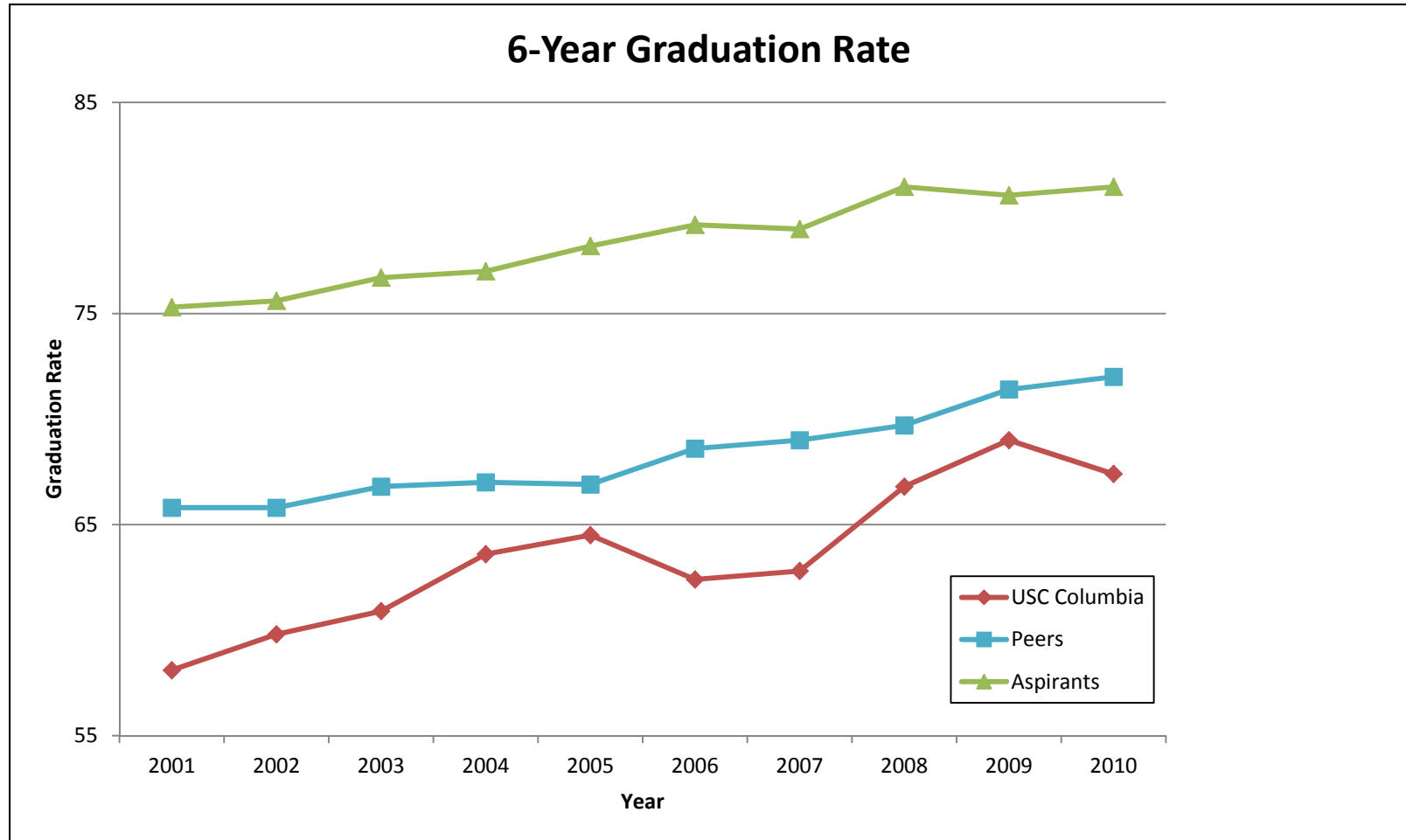
# #3 Freshman-Sophomore retention rate



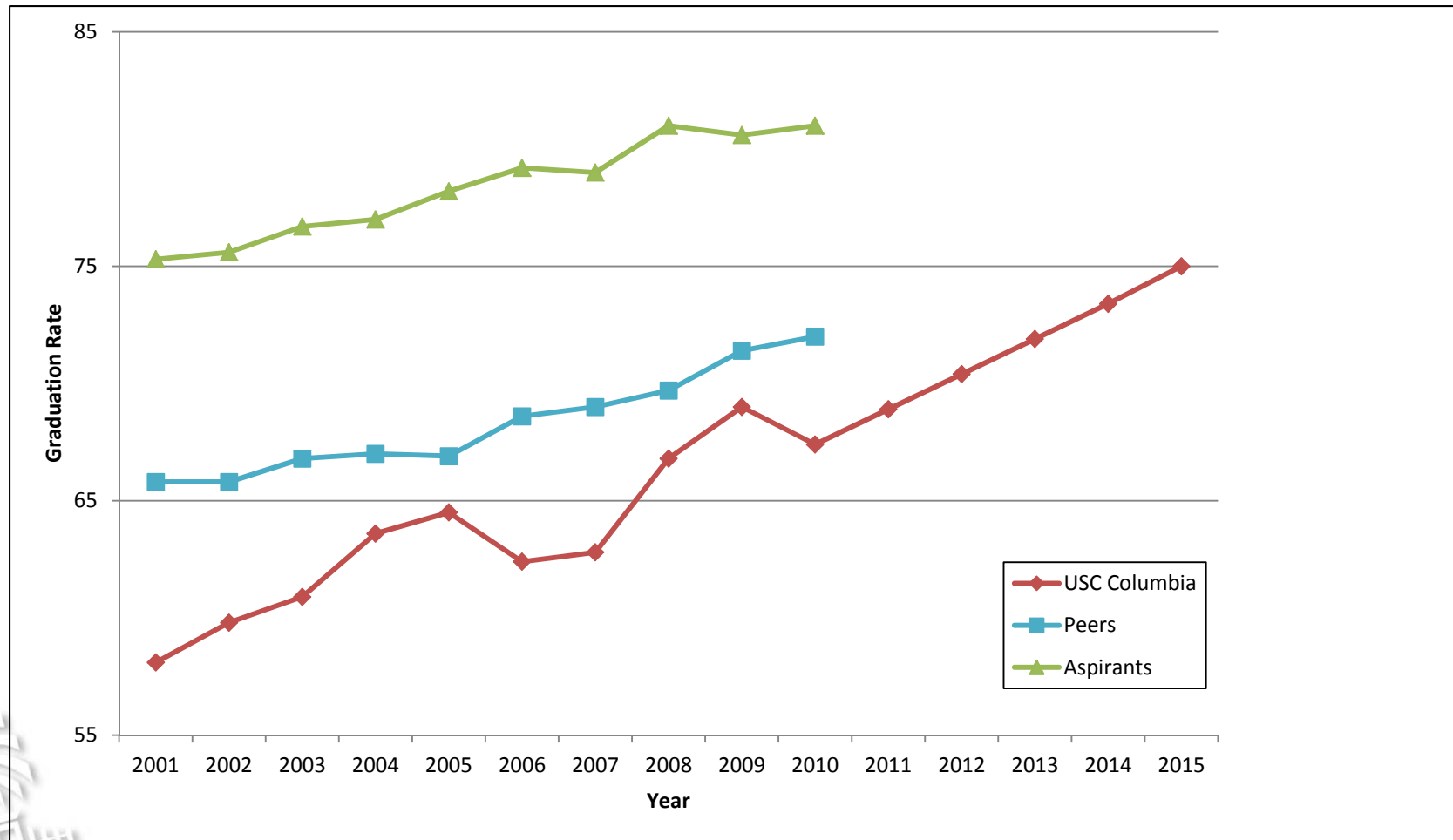
# First-time full-time freshmen



# #4 6-year graduation rate



# #4 6-year graduation rate



# Strategies

- Improve freshman-sophomore retention rate
- Coherent curriculum
  - Gen Ed requirements
  - USC Connect
  - Time to degree
- Utilize distributed learning for “bottleneck” courses
- Examine concept of summer semester



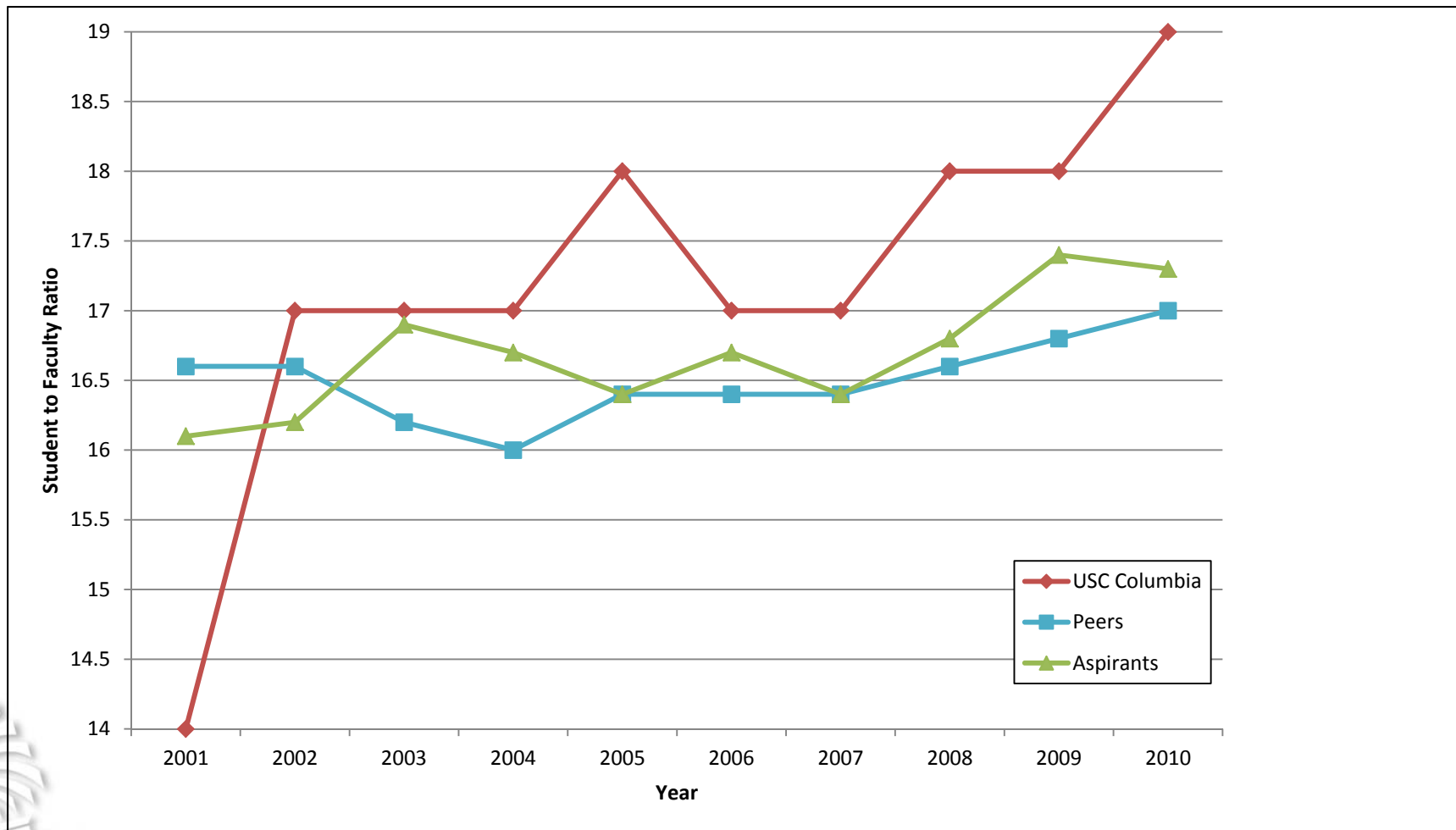
# *Faculty Metrics*



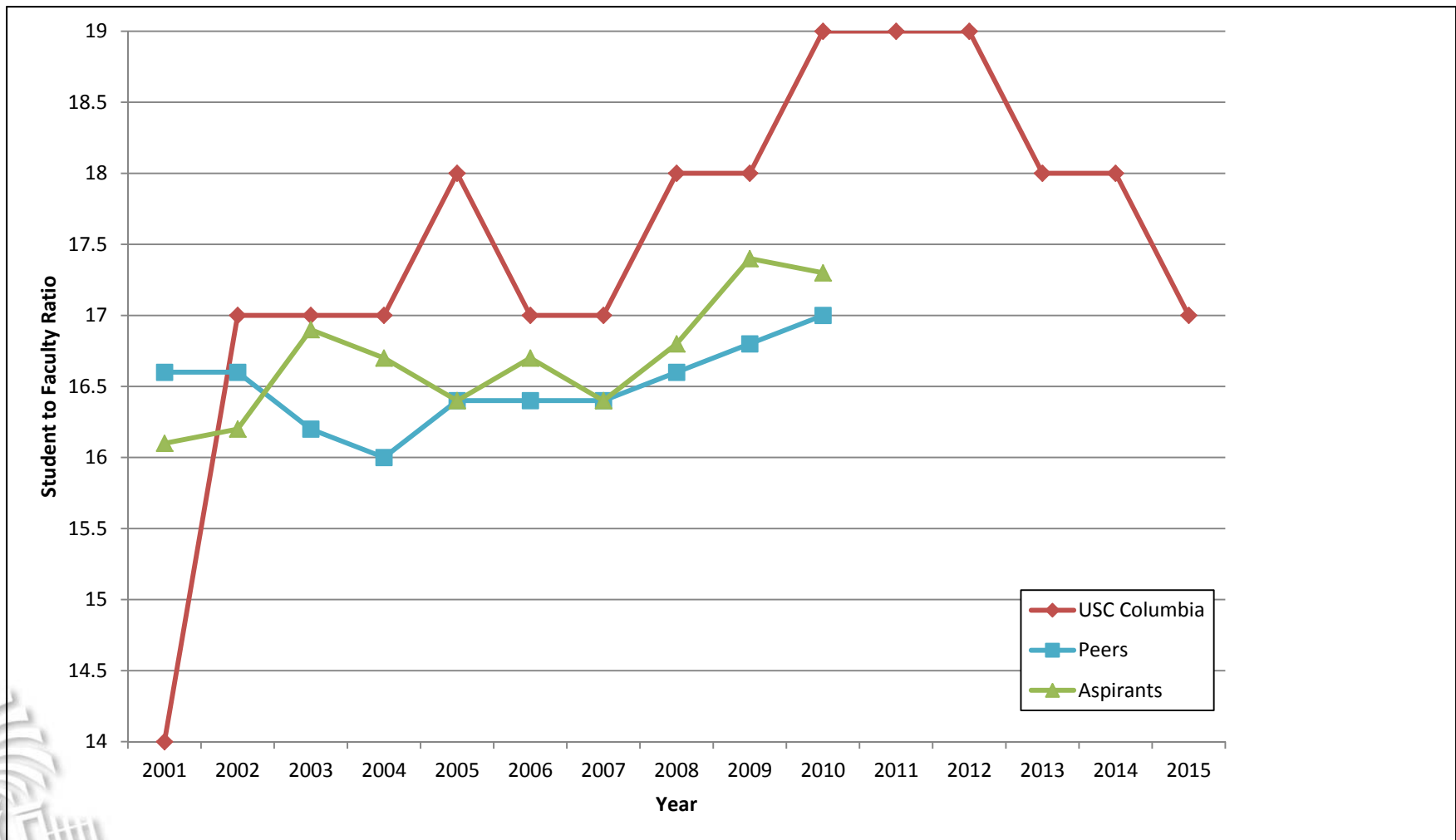
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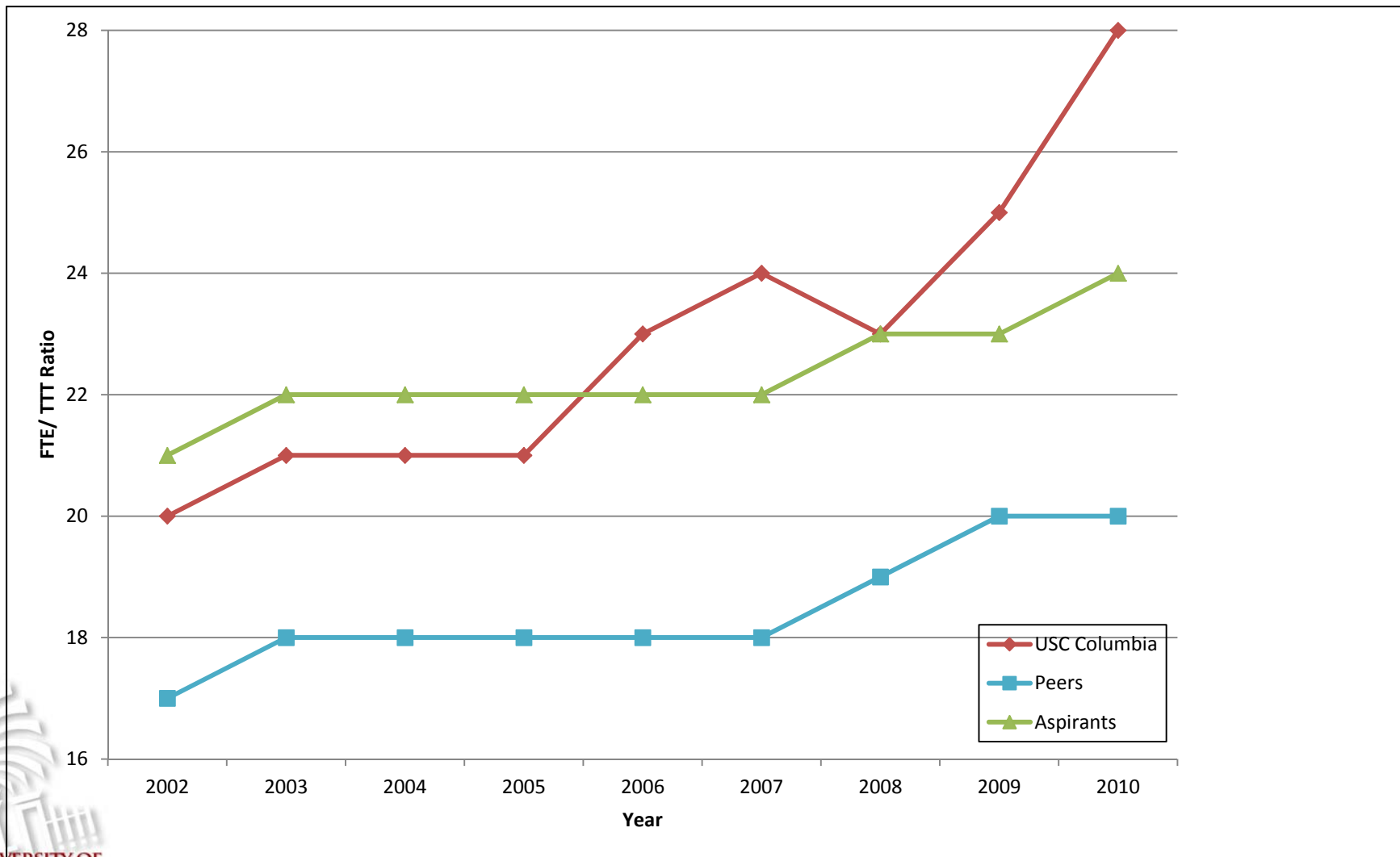
# #5 Student-to-faculty ratio



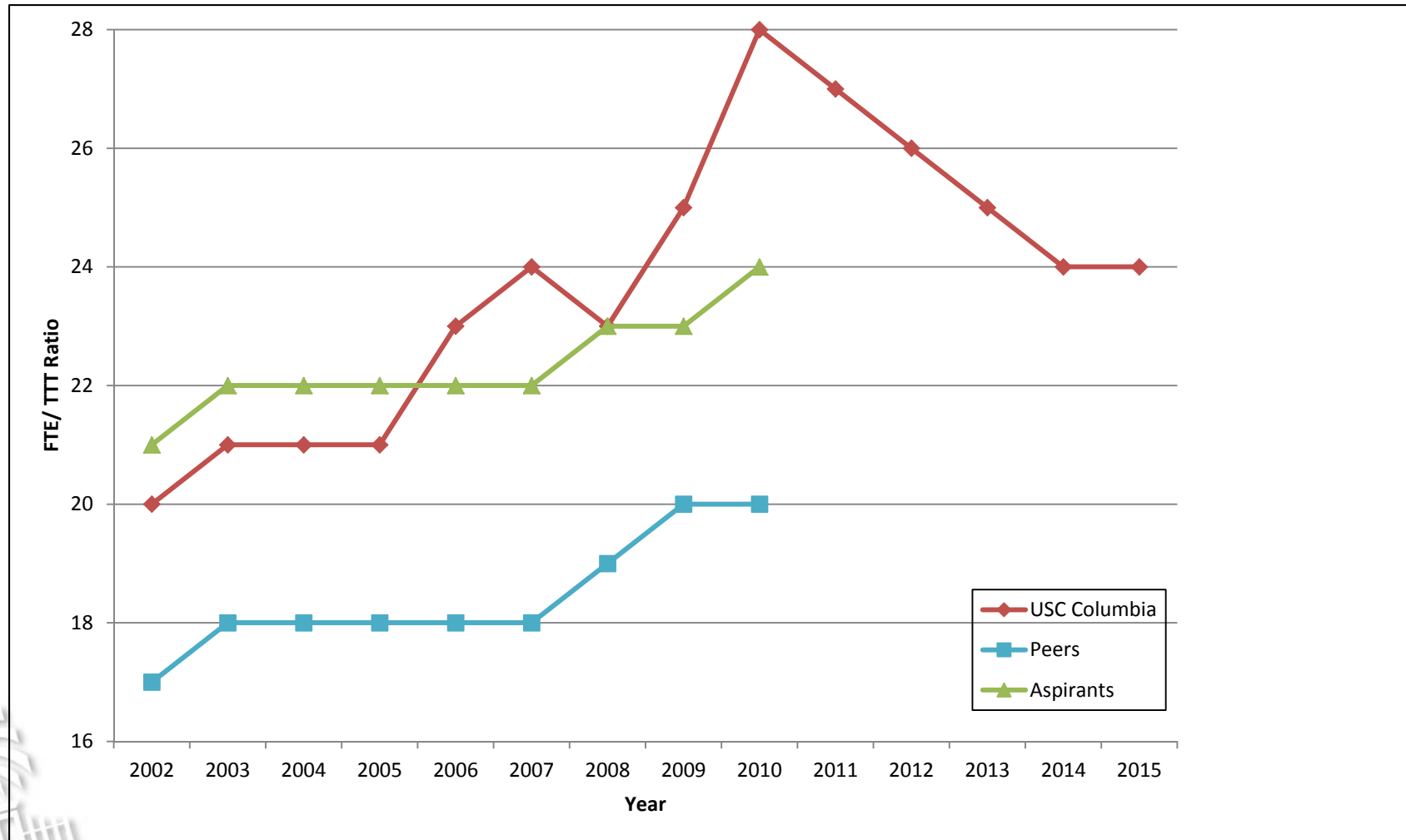
# #5 Student-to-faculty ratio



# Student-to-TT faculty ratio



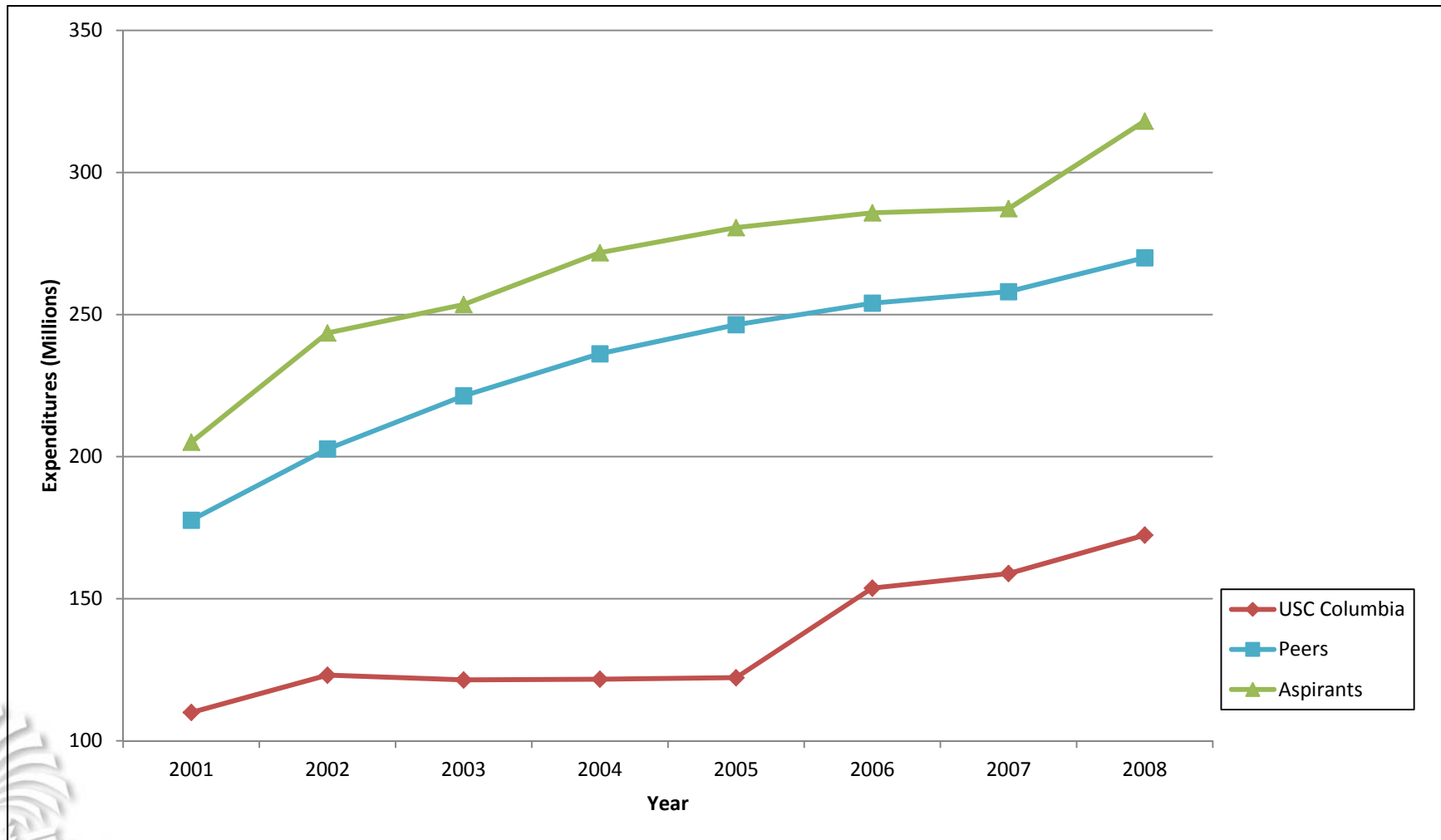
# Student-to-TT faculty ratio



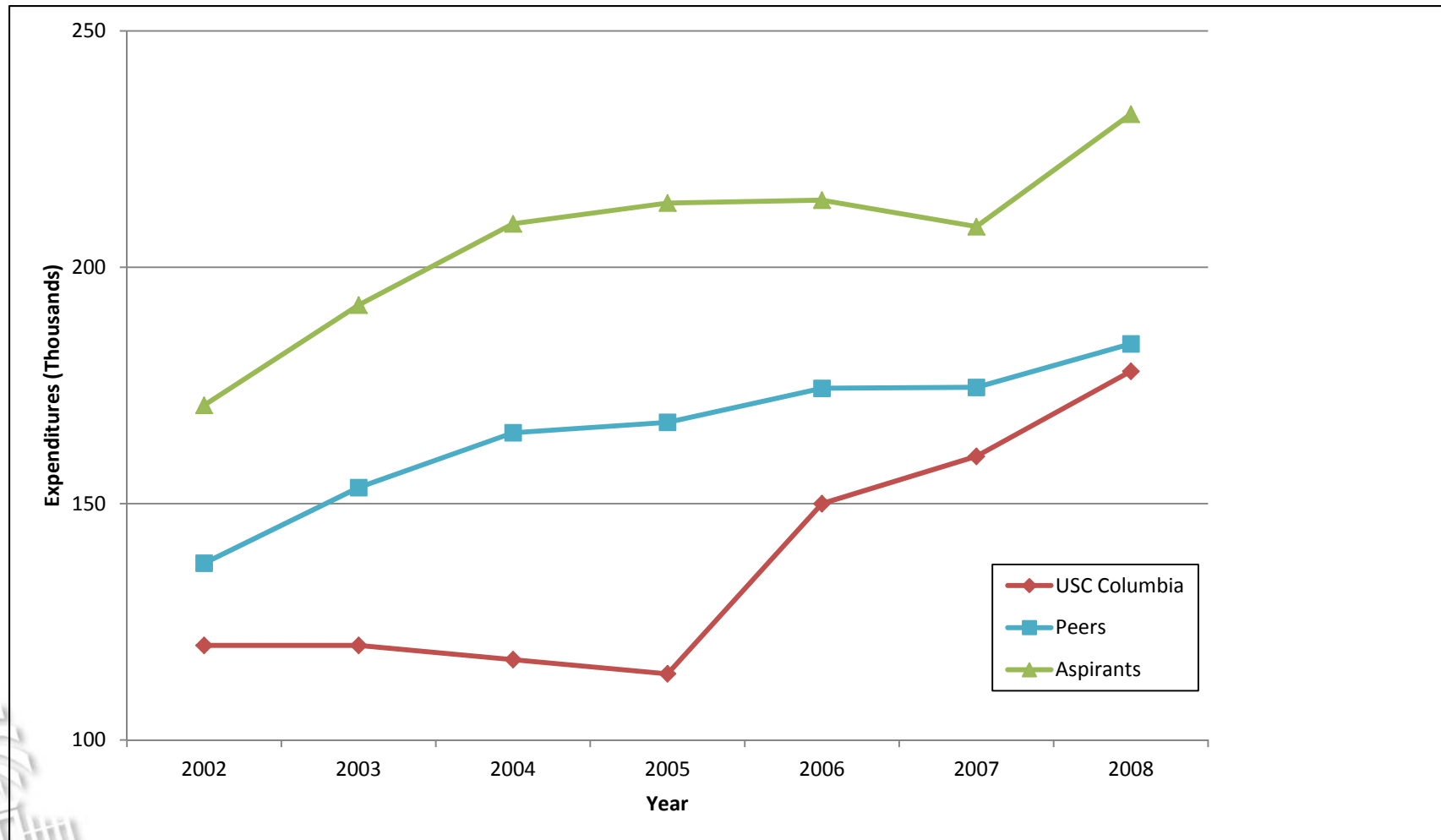
# Strategies

- Faculty Replenishment Initiative
  - 200 net new TT faculty members over 4 years
  - 41 positions allocated in spring 2011 (fall 2012)
  - 60 positions currently allocated (fall 2012/2013)
- Replace temporary faculty with PhD level instructors

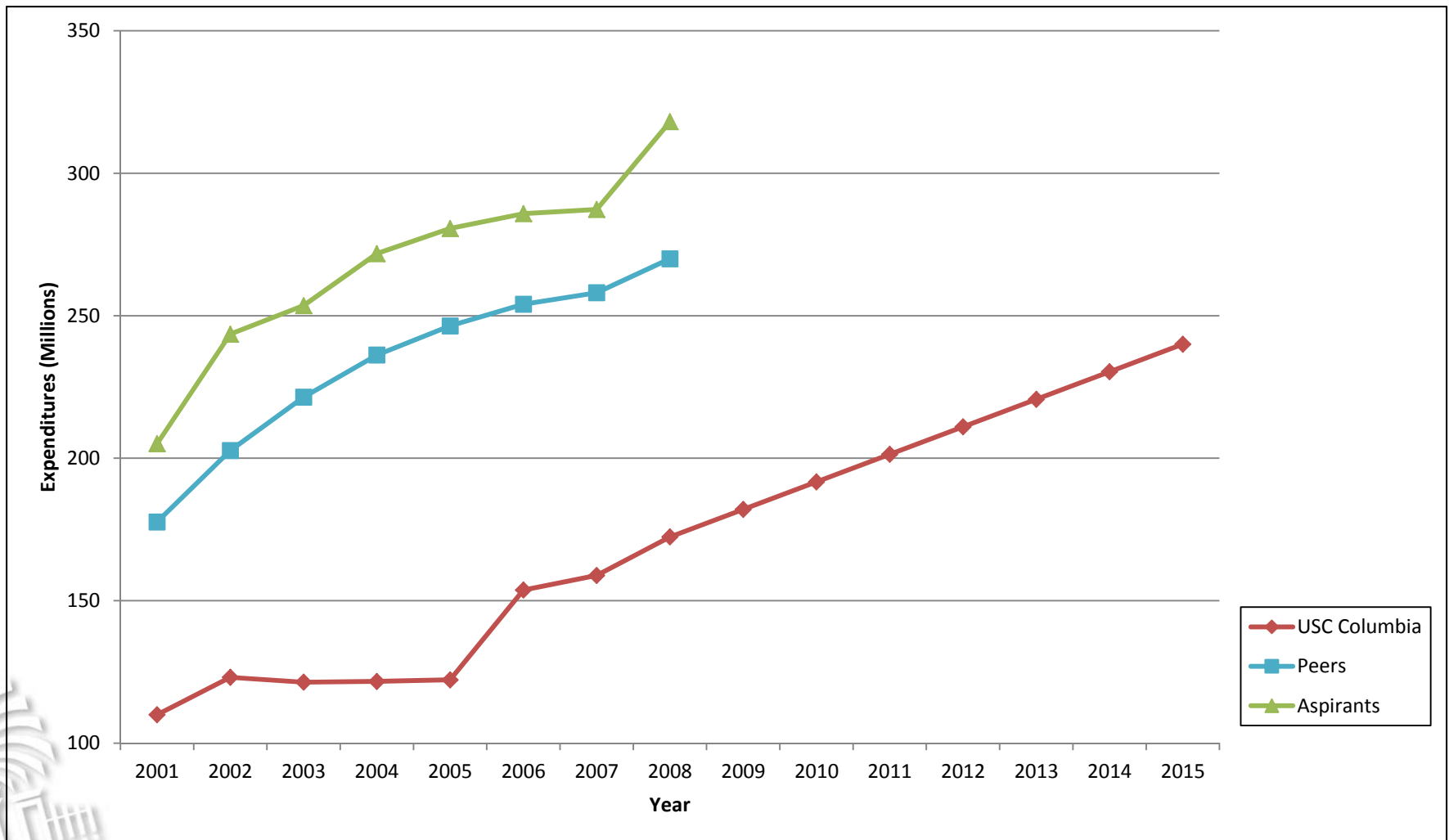
# #6 Research expenditures



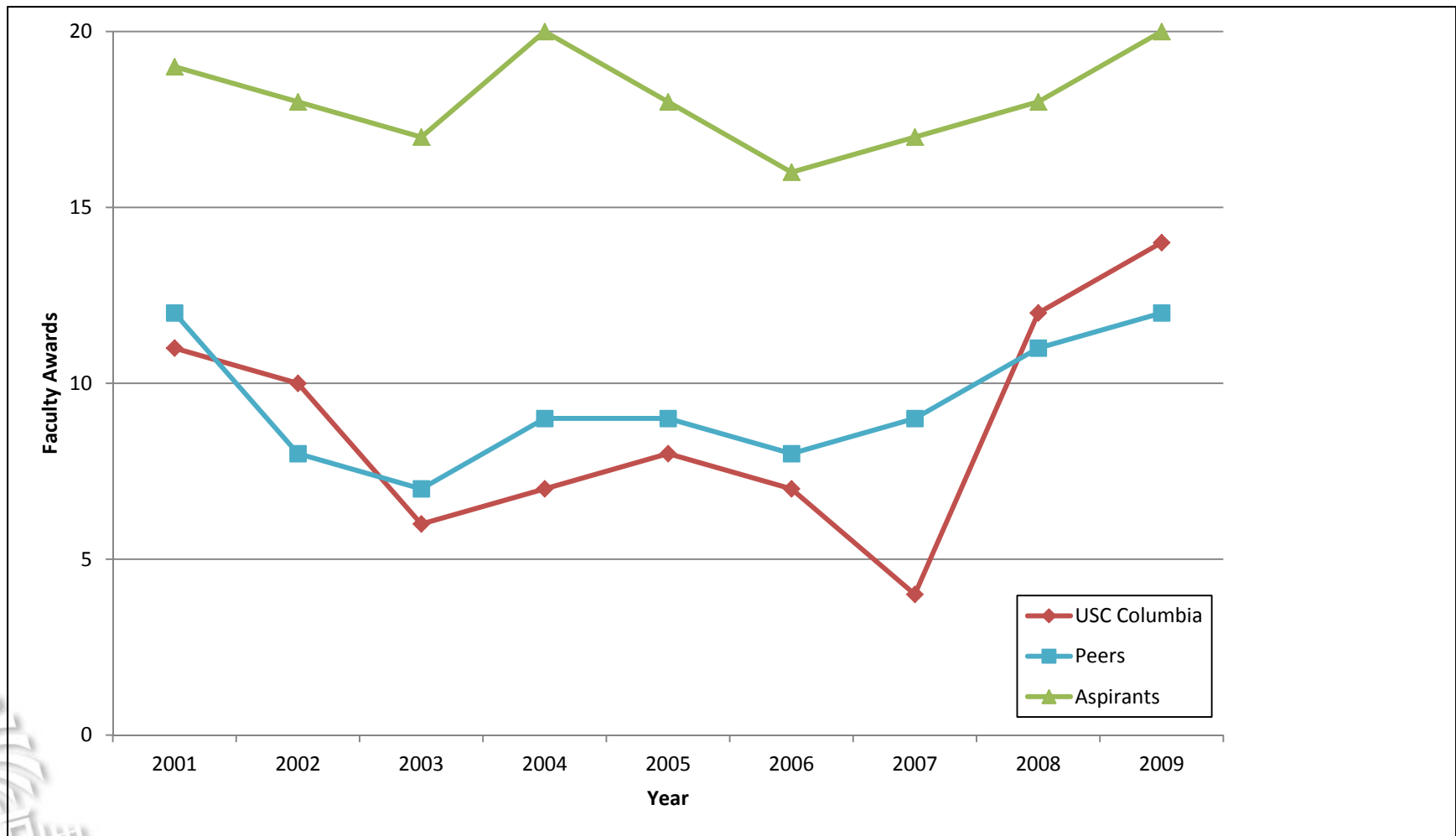
# Research expenditures per TT faculty



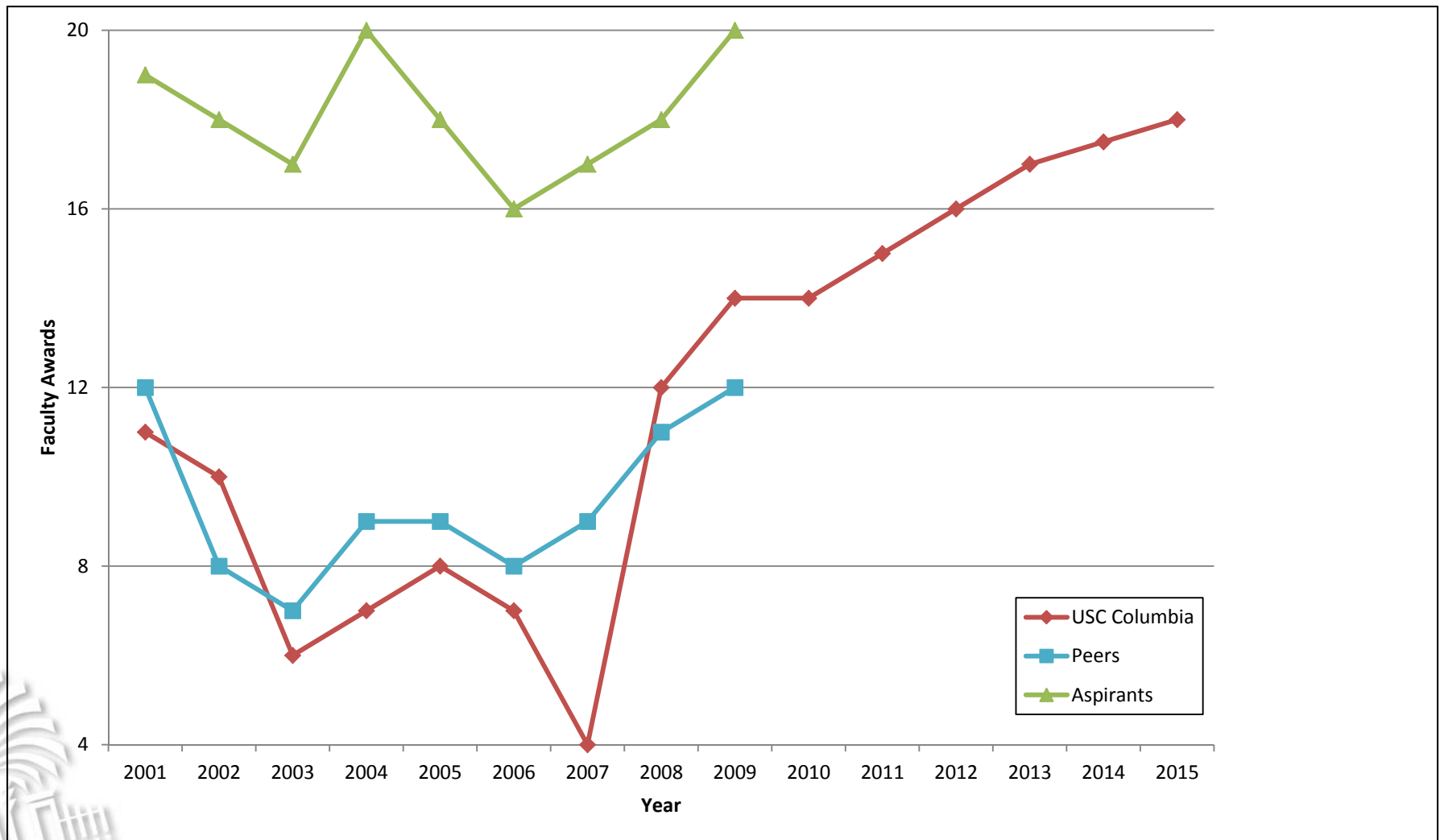
# #6 Research expenditures



# #7 National awards



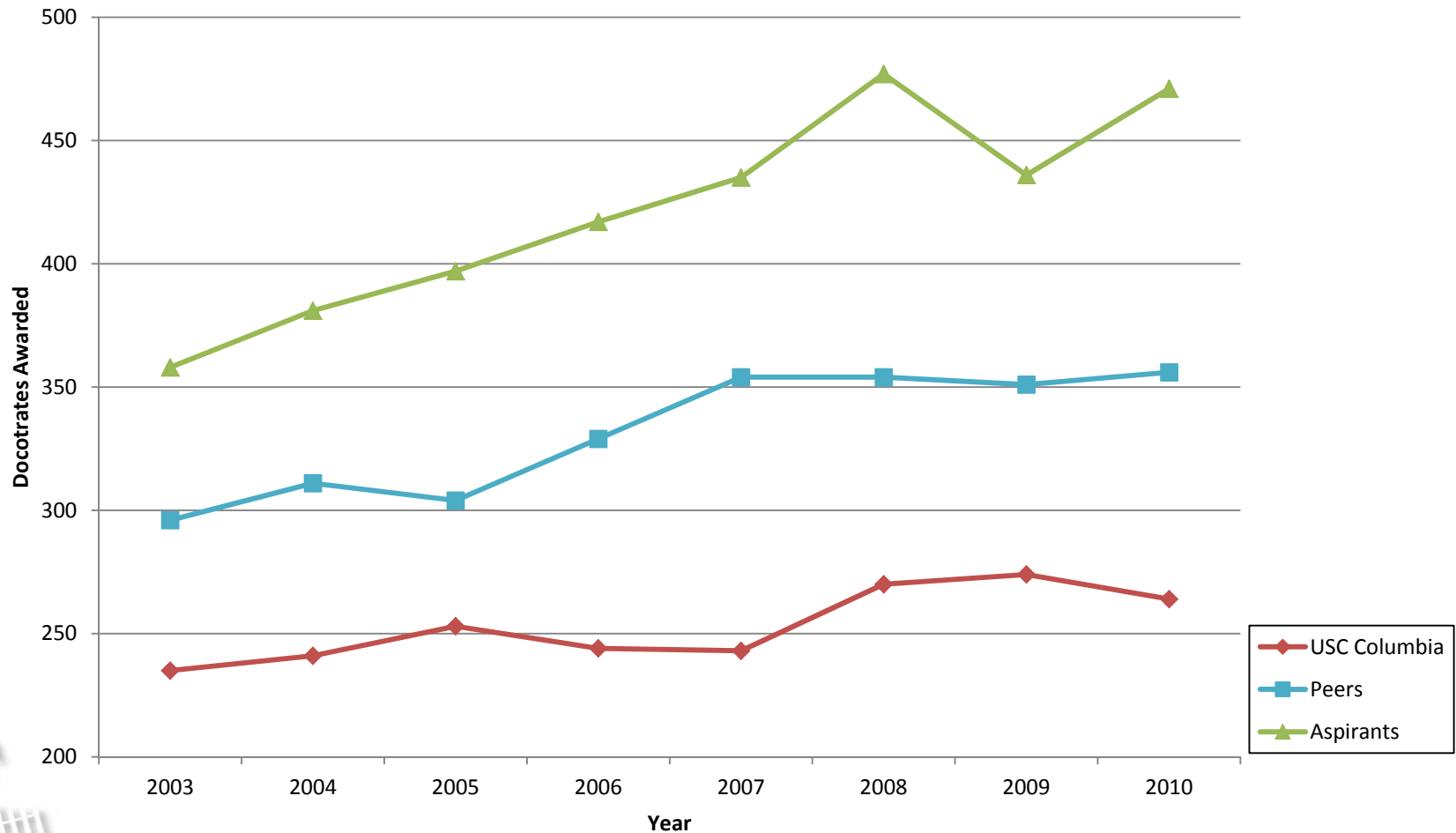
# #7 National awards



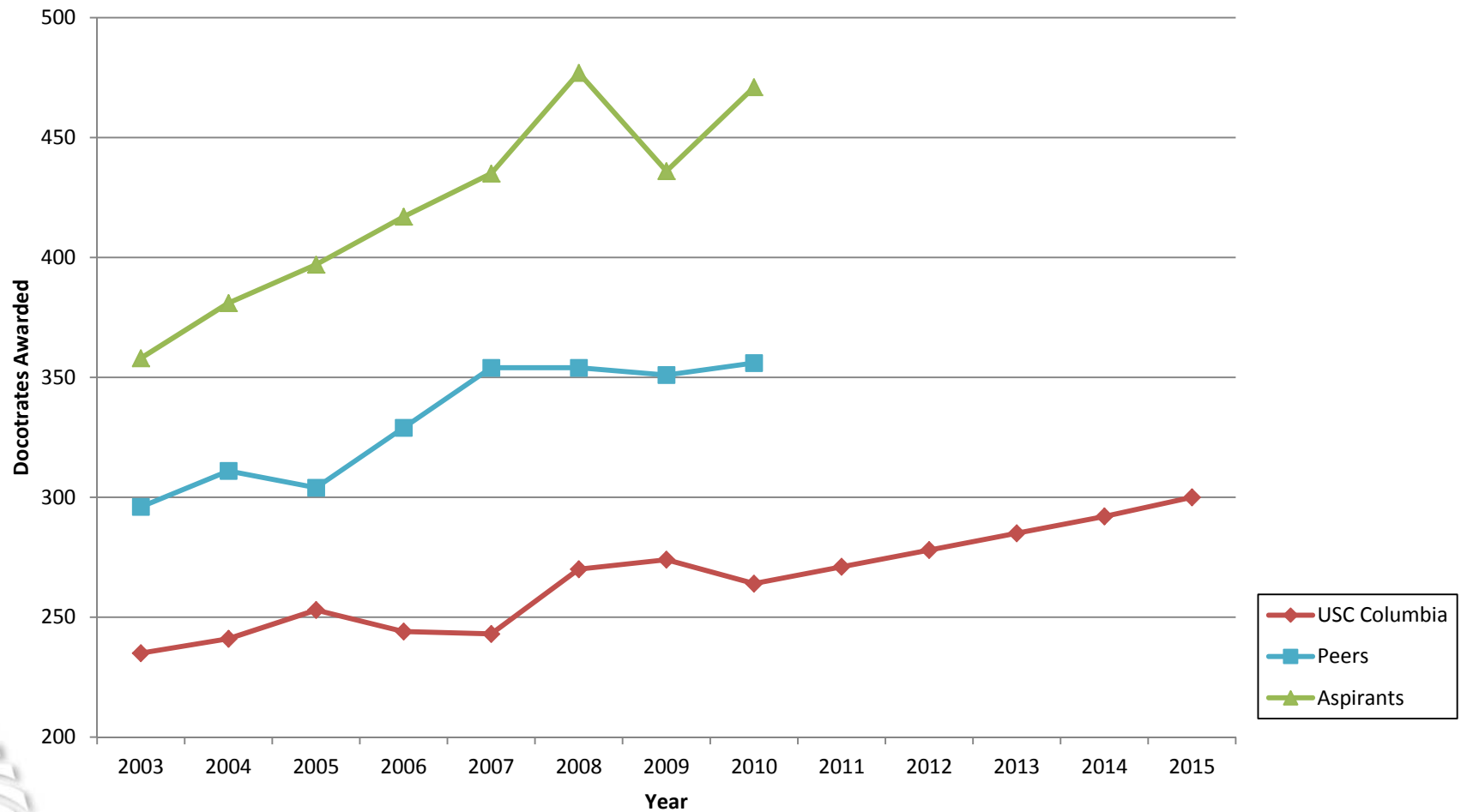
# Strategies

- Increase awareness
- Faculty Replenishment Initiative
- Faculty support programs
  - Provost grants
  - VPR grants
- Additional incentives for applicants and award winners

# #8 Doctoral degrees



# #8 Doctoral degrees



# Strategies

- Dissertation fellowships
- Faculty Replenishment Initiative
- Presidential Fellows program
- Facilitate timely graduation
  - Streamline procedures (duplicative exams)
  - Remove unnecessary obstacles (straight PhD)
- Increase number and salaries of teaching assistants
- Raise money for graduate fellowships

## *Next Steps*



- Communicate, communicate, communicate...
- Develop accurate cost estimates
- Prioritize initiatives based on “ROI” estimates (impact vs. cost)
- Include in next year’s and subsequent budgets
- Monitor progress and adjust