

NDSU Strategic Planning Committee

Meeting notes from March 18, 2011

Themes/Responses for Discover Questions

Excellence in Faculty

Faculty Excellence

Engaged Faculty

Outstanding faculty

Excellence and reputation of faculty

Recruiting and retaining talent breeds more talent (teaching/learning)

Pool talent from sectors interdisciplinarily

Identify/recognize/measure quality through reviews, audience responses, recruiting and retention of recognized talent.

Accessibility of experts

Engineering at MIT: top-notch faculty, trailblazer-define research areas

Teaching: well-trained grad students, open course curriculum

Faculty leadership and professional development – national/state organizations

Team of active and well-trained (i.e. lots of expertise) faculty that provide very good leadership (great management) that promotes open communication and collaboration and development of 'junior' members of the team.

Known nationally and internationally

Balance in research and education/teaching – you are only as good as your students.

Start with well-established prestigious faculty that in turn attracts other promising researchers.

Strong, focused, solves real problems.

Emphasis on professionalism

Faculty are engaged with students

Stands as an authority or resource for their discipline and for practical application.

Uniqueness

Uniqueness, niche quality, it stands out

Criteria may be unique

Aim for uniqueness, rather than duplication

Research is focused on an area important for all of society

Research area has not been focused on to the extent it should have been

Excellence in teaching

Excellence in teaching – national/regional awards

The “art” of science

Well trained grads

All materials on the web – lectures, exams, etc.

Open classrooms – free open to all

Rigorous

Rigorous to attract high quality student

Train leaders and thinkers, not technicians

Young, vibrant, turn-over

Accreditation flexible

Add value to other programs

Constant strive for excellence

Programs require more than just the bare minimum from students; they push students to be the best they can be in their field. These types of programs bring credibility and strength to the university.

Clear and important focus

Meaningful assessment plan that closes the loop (at program level)

Interdisciplinary

Identify areas/centers that are bound to require interdisciplinary attention: energy, health/biomed, defense, communication

Center of Excellence focused on society issues - interdisciplinary

Quality of students/graduates

Culture of learning – quality and **passion** of students

High quality students, passion, culture of learning/excellence

Quality of students

Funding Ideas

Research funding levels/Grantsmanship

Programs need size and resources

Funds for students (both undergrad, res. Interns and grad students), equipment, lab supplies, travel (especially important) – much of this will involve grant funds.

Support for grant prep., submission, administration (including a grant prep/admin. Person and also other support like access to e-journals.)

Funds for preliminary studies, 'bridging' between grants, etc.

Research requires money expenditures in biomed, energy, defense (Salaries and infrastructure all lag here).

Buildings

Space

Few new buildings on campus the past decade or more

Recognition of programs, faculty, university, etc.

Publications in recognized journals

Patents and licensed technology

Authority in discipline/application

Demand for graduates

Travel for students (both undergrad, res. Interns and grad students) is especially important because PR is a key to gaining recognition and travel is critical to that, as is a great website!

Cutting edge research – trailblazers, defining the research areas

Maintain marketability

Purpose of Academic/Research Programs

Solve problems of society

Relevance – global, regional

Educate population

Enhance well-being – engagement with community

Ability to generate (and teach) new knowledge shared as part of land grant mission

Evidence based research

Balance between research and teaching

Diversity in criteria and ideas

Relevance at regional/global level

Ability to take the research out to the people

Economic Development

Spin-off companies

Creation of companies

Collaborations/partnerships

Collaborate with companies, agencies, universities, national laboratories

Outstanding partnerships with other schools

Collaborative efforts with other organizations

Use local to go national

The hyphen is the most important invention of mankind – it brings things together

Partnership with other schools

Collaborative efforts with affiliate organizations

Ask Extension to take the lead because research is done when the grant is done. Extension continues.

Acronyms that were shared

COBRE

- VIS NEURO
- CPR
- ANIMAL NUTR

AES

CNSE

CCAST

COES

SROI

Attributes of Center for Biofilm Engineering at Montana State University

- The subject matter of the center (i.e. biofilms) is critical to society and impacts many different industries.
- The center is unique and doesn't have any significant competition.
- They spend a significant amount of resources on marketing and providing educational opportunities to their clients (provide a workshop every six months).
- All research is done in the same facility (one floor of a new building) which greatly facilitates interactions between PIs, researchers and students.
- They offer a reduced overhead rate for projects sponsored by an Industrial Associate.

Attributes of Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska

- Multi-disciplinary approach invites persons and programs from across the university to contribute and benefit from it. The program requires strong disciplinary programs to propel it; in turn, the center elevates the disciplinary programs.
- Success in identifying and executing marquee projects (such as Lewis & Clark Papers Project) that give the program salience and stature.

- Attraction of a mix of external support, including both external grants and endowments. Grants get specific projects done; endowments provide continuity.
- Clear relevance to regional constituency, which is crucial to the public esteem of a land grant university. When you can achieve scholarly stature, and do it in an area that the regional public embraces, that's a formula for success in the land grant setting.

Attributes of Localization Research Center at U of Limerick

- Interdisciplinary center for excellence
- NDSU is well poised and would be unique in offering this in North America
- Center would draw on departments of computer science, computer engineering, art & design, communications, English and modern languages – not only at NDSU but at Tri-College.
- Limerick's LRC has established a worldwide reputation.
- Funding for center came in part from Microsoft.
- Website – www.localisation.ie/index.htm

Attributes of MIT – Engineering

- Top-notch faculty: Trailblazers – define research areas
- Economic Development – spin-off companies
- Teaching – well-trained grad students – open course curriculum

Attributes of Cornell/Syracuse

- Enhance well-being – engagement with community
- Culture of learning – quality and passion of students

Attributes of University of Nebraska/Kansas State

- Train leaders and thinkers, not technicians
- Young, vibrant, turn-over
- The “art” of science

Academic/Research attributes (These attributes were listed as one contribution in notes.)

Education mission

Focus

Common goals

Collaborate

Prestigious core

Track record

Levels of expertise

Practical application

Teaching/Research