

# **NDSU Strategic Planning Committee**

## **Meeting notes from March 18, 2011**

### **Themes/Responses for Dream Questions**

#### **Funding**

State of the art funding

Start-up funding

Money support at all levels – scholarships, assistantships, post-doc

Programs - funding increase

Student scholarship dollars increase

Faculty money increase

Staff money increase

Create a second NDSU Development Foundation for research and academics

Increase quality of faculty (sustainability)

- Home grown US outside talent

Bring in top faculty “stars” as magnet for student scholarships.

Startup funding for faculty research

Support for students – scholarships for undergraduate, assistantships, post docs, support to develop research teams.

#### **Quality of students**

High entry – admission standards

Excellence in students as well as faculty

Increase quality of students (sustainability)

- Home grown US outside talent

Strengthen presence in high schools

Students recruited with demonstrable skills, curiosity and engagement in programs offered.

Students – UG, Grads, etc.

Internships increase.

Global experience – study abroad, international focus – learning

Students are actively recruited

Have selective admission

Students who are highly engaged and passionate about their fields.

High standards for students.

Recruiting – get good students connected with NDSU

Students engaged in research/practice  
Address local need/demand for graduates  
Students received global experience – study abroad, learning with international focus  
Students – high standards for incoming  
Direct recruiting – Governor School  
Raise admission standards to get best students.  
Academic rigorous, perhaps accepting a higher quality student  
NDSU shouldn't grow in student numbers – recruit better students not more  
Better communication with high school – community college - university

### **Quality of faculty**

Hiring the best people – creative, risk-taking, passionate, strong track record, teaching & research  
Allow for failure  
Great deal of freedom  
Consistent system for PTE retention and reward  
Grad assistants increase – TA's and GA's  
Recruit “best of the best” – reward success with operating dollars  
Endowed professorships  
Faculty with appropriate skill sets and willingness to work interdisciplinary  
Time and flexibility for faculty to be creative  
Diversity in faculty increase  
Develop program level assessment – excellence  
Faculty receive national recognition  
Faculty obtain grants  
Faculty engage students in research and practice  
Diversity – ideas and culture  
Use multiple technologies on and off campus capabilities  
Create internship opportunities and perceptions  
Faculty is innovative  
Attract high quality professors that are renowned in their field and encourage and challenge current faculty and students.  
Capabilities to recruit the best-of-the-best scientists (pay, research facilities, support for family, etc.)  
Hiring certain specialties  
Time to be creative – stretched so thin  
Reduce service loads  
Nationally recognized faculty  
High quality internships  
Innovative  
Culture of prestige for Grad assistants  
Faculty that drive a new vision, create new areas.

Hiring best people – uniqueness of area, have made large contribution, have led to publication, passion about integration, attitude of allowing failure, passion for teaching and collaboration.

Recruit – head hunt for top faculty and give them free hand

Recruit top faculty with needed skill set and allow them to have the time/flexibility to be creative.

If you hire excellence then let them be excellent instead of always saying “We don’t do that here” or limiting their passion.

## **Economic Development**

Faculty and students take leadership in economic development – new companies, products, markets

### **Uniqueness**

Uniqueness and focus

Create nice, loose parameters

Programs are unique, innovative

Research topics must be carefully selected so that they only address the most important technological problems (focusing on incremental improvements in technology will have little pay-back)

Uniqueness and focus/niche

- Possibility of pilot test new ideas
- Interdisciplinary possibilities greater here

Niche – be careful with use of that word. Does not always mean a strength.

### **Purpose of academic/research programs**

Meets a real need

Problem focused (research and teaching)

Solutions to high complex problems

Program has local impact – land grant mission

Enhance other campus programs (e.g. interdisciplinary)

Meeting a real need

- Funding to get research into practice
- Time/staffing to get out into the community

Global competence/experience opportunities

- Awareness of how research has impacts locally and globally

Programs need to be interdisciplinary and international.

Distance education needs to have great teaching

What could be done when you are not worried about failure?

## **Integrated**

Integrated and interdisciplinary – diversity people and ideas

Soft skills integrated

Distance education

Programs are inter-discipline, creates value for other programs

Embed 'soft skills' into education

- Transferability of knowledge
- Problem solving
- Team work
- Communication

## **Rigorous**

Global competence/experience

Create a climate for excellence

Culture of prestige increase

Core programs – health, energy, defense

- Interdisciplinary, international, Native American

Synergy of faculty, students and program leads to the program's reputation. Not innovating leads to stagnating.

## **Support Services**

Student/faculty support services

Resources

Mentoring

An outstanding research support office that provides support for grant prep., submission, administration, etc.

Excellence in support systems to surround faculty and students

- Academic advising and mentoring
- Childcare
- Sponsored programs for grant writing

## **Partnerships/collaborations**

Multi-university collaborations

MIT & Stanford come to study NDSU programs

NDSU Alumni involvement increase

Private business collaborations

Synergistic opportunities with private sector

A mechanism to facilitate and support collaboration with industry and government.

Alumni involvement

## **Marketing**

Program promotion and marketing – strong alums, public, legislature

## **Infrastructure**

Building increase

Equipment increase

Physical

An outstanding library that provides primarily great access to electronic media (journals, etc.) – great access to the literature is key.

An outstanding IT system that allows for on-line access to all of the necessary resources (library, individual files and documents, etc.) whether on or off campus.

Facilities that allow students to study and create the highest quality work.

Top-of-the-line facilities and instrumentation. Excellent facilities are needed to do excellent research and recruit excellent scientist.

Up to date facilities and equipment

Up to date state of the art facilities and equipment – labs, classroom

## **Other comments**

Outstanding program that was mentioned – Center for Nutrition and Pregnancy at NDSU

Institute for Regional Studies at NDSU is the oldest regional studies center on the Great Plains. Nebraska demonstrated that regional studies garner both scholarly stature and public esteem for a land grant university. This can be attained, and exceeded, at NDSU. Elements:

- Unification of management through the hiring of an executive director.
- Provision of a suitable physical facility to house research collections, manage publications program and house research and public service offices.
- A cluster hire ( a strategy used with success at Oklahoma State University) with appointments in several departments.

MIT and Stanford – created email, Google, Apple, nuclear engineering, tissue egg (?), Swiffer

We will know we have the achieved excellence at NDSU when you walk into a bar in New York (or anywhere) and people say “WOW” when they hear you are going to school, or conduct research or teach at NDSU!