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 careful 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

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**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

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**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!