

NC STATE UNIVERSITY



11/11/2016

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UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC FORUM: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NC State participated in a UNC Board of Governors Strategic Plan Public Forum on November 7, 2016 with 68 people signing in, consisting of faculty, staff and alumni. NC State Chair of the Faculty moderated the event. The written comments and spoken comments from that event were synthesized and compiled by the NC State Assistant to the Chancellor for Communications and the Director of Administration, Communication & Planning and the executive summary of the themes, key issues and remarks are reported below.

ACCESS

- Reinstate programs that were cut that benefit students from underrepresented groups.
- Do not use the phrase “without reducing quality,” in Draft Goal 1. It mostly imposes metrics that disproportionately disadvantage people from underserved and underrepresented communities & are not good predictors of college success.
- Students need to understand the true cost of higher education. It is much more than just tuition.
- Students need to be thought of on a system wide basis, so that the success of students who transfer from one campus to another is captured and celebrated.
- Extend draft goal and metrics to address participation gaps of all kind, not just low-income students.
- Draft goal 2 – Could this goal be extended to include other areas -- health sciences, STEM, as featured in Econ. Impact & Community Engagement.
- Strengthen links w/ high schools, educate staff about requirements of attending colleges.
- “Without reducing quality”
- Replace “without reducing quality” with “Increase graduation rates, particularly in areas of state and national need “and close gaps between types of students in this area.
- Need to look at current practices & mechanisms in place that promote access i.e. what are HS doing to align curricula at the prep/college level?
- Increase enrollment of underrepresented students to better represent the population of the state.
- In physical sciences and engineering women are seriously underrepresented – undergrad & graduate.
- Broaden support for the MSEN programs that develop science, mathematics, engineering, communication, and technology skills and knowledge with lower income, first generation pre-college students.
- Support for goal 1 could be increased with early transfer/ dual enrollment in NC Community Colleges and Universities.
- Challenges: Goal 2 is difficult due to low teacher wages.
- Goal 1: How is enrollment increase a part of this without campus mandates & more money?
- Provide info via central website about the various majors/ minors, available throughout the system.
- Encourage higher wages for teachers, and/or offer tuition assistance/waivers for teachers who stay in NC.
- Increase access by placing college counselors in all high schools.
- Provide better college advising programs in high schools with programs like College Advising Corps.
- The definition of access states that “is the opportunity for all North Carolinians who are prepared.” We might also want to consider expanding the language to “who are prepared or to help be prepared for...”
- Student loans are taxing and jeopardizing all students.

STUDENT SUCCESS

- UNC should emphasize the need to learn critical thinking skills.
- Current system of forecasting enrollment for budget implications can be helped by improvements to graduation ratios.
- There are 9,000+ students at NC State and over 10,000 at UNC-CH, your flagship universities. They should at least be recognized in the strategic plan.
- Recommendations: to increase 4 & 6 year graduation rates (especially among transfers) consider closer relationship with NCCCS to work on more articulation agreements and degree pathway checklists.

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- Create more engagement with international students, add more global context to all curricula and make sure study abroad programs are affordable.
- Computer science classes should be required of all students.
- Provide information regarding what typical measurable credentials successful students should have to gain admission and succeed in each major or at least group of majors at each university.
- Improve student success by focusing on programs and involvement in their first semester on campus.
- Provide better academic advising for UNC undergrads.
- Improve partnerships between UNC and NCCCS in order to better align curricula.
- Require all academic programs to require a recorded internship or cooperative work experience.
- Look at enabling institutions to create individualized success plans for students who may be at risk.
- We should expand the definition of student support in order to address the holistic needs of students.
- 69% of students indicate that NC State's Sustainability Commitment influenced their decision to attend.
- Supporting more STEM base early college.
- Student success, as measured by the two goals, seems to set a low bar.
- Define what we mean by 21st century knowledge and skills and then ensure there is a clearer crosswalk with the knowledge and skills expectation and the possible metrics to be used.
- Mental health issues must be addressed in order to protect and help the students flourish.

AFFORDABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

- Do not confuse "cost of college" with "price of college." Do not let price prevent access to higher education.
- Allow UNC institutions to determine the most efficient methods to use their resources.
- More supports are needed to help prepare faculty and staff to handle more students at lower cost while also improving teaching effectiveness and the university experience.
- Look into alternative models to complement state funding resources.
- Try to establish state matching funds for individuals who donate to set up scholarships.
- Challenge: Goal 1 – How do you define "attainable"? What is attainable for one family may not be for another, even with "financial aid", especially w/student loans.
- Many majors cannot easily be completed in two years by students with a North Carolina AA or AS degree.
- Make sure high school students know their financial options with the FAFSA.
- Reducing the scope of the Umstead Act to allow for campus organizations to market themselves to the greater community would lead to additional self-funded revenue.
- Push for transparency in course material costs from all UNC institutions.
- Restore tuition benefit for NCSSM graduates. We need to protect our investment.
- Increasing student fees to fund program development and expansion puts an undue burden of requiring students to pay for programs and services designed to help them.
- Make investments that will keep tuition prices stable.
- The opportunity to purchase power from independent power producers would increase operational and financial flexibility.
- Employees of the UNC system should have access to children tuition discounts.
- We can't get better amid constant removal of resources.
- These goals need strength and balance. If the goals are to keep costs down, we need to add goal to bring in additional revenue.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- We need more promotion of the benefits of research; we need more investment in research infrastructure.
- Research must be thought of in more than simply economic impact.
- The System must do a better job of communicating successes and show taxpayers it is a worthy investment.

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- If graduates' readiness is an economic impact then we need to include graduate students.
- Strategies – Retention – Shortage of teachers in rural areas.
- Reinstate teaching fellows programs.
- Work with legislators to improve salaries for teachers.
- Reinstate addition pay for advanced degrees, and recruit from rural areas.
- As a land-grant university, our presence in all 100 counties must be strengthened.
- Apply STEM education to global challenges
- Assist NC citizens with socially & environmentally responsible programs and service.
- Using legislative funding responsibly to reduce first costs.
- Work with legislature to mandate highly efficient buildings or set UNC Goals in this area.
- Focusing on providing certificate courses in STEM.
- Encourage inclusion of international partnership that can help broaden problem solving options.
- Economic impact is measured by more than skilled workers, growth of research and community engagement.
- Having only a metric of STEM graduates is a disservice to the citizens of NC who are not STEM graduates.
- Develop a scale for measuring level of partnership w/communities so that this impact can be measured.

EXCELLENT AND DIVERSE INSTITUTION

- Under draft goal 2's metrics, could you add measuring employee satisfaction?
- Do not relegate diversity to special institutions.
- Students should be encouraged to attend the UNC institution that has strengths in their areas of interest.
- Transfer between UNC institutions should be made simple.
- Challenge: Goal indicates a singular "area of distinction."
- The goal must do more to recruit the most outstanding staff and faculty.
- Retention of faculty and promotion of highly qualified staff needs attention.
- It is imperative all institutions provide a positive environment for students, staff, faculty with all social identities
- Focus on recruitment of students of color.
- This definition needs to added "are inclusive and reflect the diversity of our state."
- Goal 1: This goal should promote collaboration/communication between institutions.
- Goal 2: Include students as a group to measure engagement and retention.
- Institutions must engage all students and the goal of each campus should be to increase diversity.
- Make sure staff are part of this process. Many times they feel left out.
- Faculty diversity is a key issue and must be maintained for on each campus.
- The UNC System needs to use its resources more efficiently.
- The UNC System needs to cut waste and design buildings more efficiently and cost effectively.
- There needs to be more cooperation and collaboration among the schools of the UNC System.
- We need to recruit and maintain a diverse faculty.
- The UNC System is well known for STEM, but its good liberal arts colleges also need to be promoted.
- There is no mention of the importance of graduate education.
- There is no mention of diversity in the "Excellent & Diverse Institution."
- Create system wide scholar program to fund high achieving students across NC.
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities need same resources as UNC Chapel Hill or NC State.
- More attention should be paid to measuring and improving campus climate.

OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- Take the long-range view. Don't be radically disruptive.

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- It takes more than money to treat people well. Private-sector style flexible leave is needed.
- The UNC System must do all it can to grow and support guidance counselors in NC high schools.
- The strategic plan needs to be specifically created for institutions of higher education, needs to discuss not just challenges but also what campuses do well.
- There is no mention of fundraising and development and how it contributes to student success.
- There is a lack of excitement in this vision/plan. We need something to rally behind.
- Sustainability must be at the core of every goal of the UNC System.
- This plan needs to align with the priorities of the Legislature (or vice versa).
- The UNC System needs an agenda to drive conversation about higher education, and legislative priorities.
- Parents and students are focused on campus safety and security and it should be expressly mentioned.
- Community engagement should be outreach to help the Eastern and Western areas of NC.
- The UNC System should be in all NC Schools through 1st to 12th grade and a goal to all students.
- Encourage better funding options in providing better facilities and infrastructure.
- In general this strategic plan sounds like it could be for a Community College system.