**Distinguished Chester Fritz Professors**

**UND Strategic Planning Focus Group Questions**

**April 27, 2022**

1. UND’s Mission is “*to provide transformative learning, discovery and community engagement opportunities for developing tomorrow’s leaders*.”
   * What do you think are the strengths and weaknesses of this statement?
     1. If talking about leadership, it happens with experiential learning. Use “transformational and experiential “
     2. Define our identity – language and words matter, use research and discovery, define UND as a research university
     3. What about the Doers. Not everyone will be a leader; we need workers/doers as well; Alumni may feel that everyone should be a leader
     4. Maintain strong graduate programs
     5. Suggested rewrite: “To provide discovery, transformative learning, and community engagement opportunities for developing tomorrow’s leaders.”
     6. The product is the “opportunities” which is one of the most important words in the sentence
     7. Defining feature of faculty is the scholarly activity and getting the work into the hands of the public; lots of people teach and do service
     8. Three circles – teaching, research, service – inextricably linked and co-dependent; can’t do one without the other
2. Who does UND serve, and do you believe we are currently meeting these needs?
   * Who do you believe it should be serving and what do you think needs to change for this to happen?
     1. We serve the state of North Dakota and what we do for the people of ND
     2. How do we know we are meeting the needs of the state? Do we define how we serve the state well enough?
     3. One of the key issues is the real economic impact, universities support the economy of the area
     4. Expand workforce development view –workforce development is important and providing opportunities for the students who come to UND is also important
     5. We are serving the students
3. The Core Values of UND are Community, Discovery, Diversity, Inclusivity, Liberal Arts and Lifelong Learning (see below)

* **Community:** A spirit of collaboration and connectedness across the University and beyond.
* **Discovery:** An enthusiasm for inquiry, creativity, and innovation.
* **Diversity:** An understanding and appreciation of diverse people, experiences, and ideas.
* **Inclusivity:** A welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment for all.
* **Liberal Arts:** An educational foundation essential for living an intellectually curious, personally fulfilling, and socially responsible life.
* **Lifelong Learning:** A passion for learning, civic engagement, and community leadership.
* What do you feel are the strengths and weaknesses of these Values?
  + Be aware of not being inclusive, then exclusive, racists, there will be attacks (7th grade paradox), have defense
  + Under Discovery, include scholarship, include research, include development
  + Inclusivity – are we welcoming the community - get Grand Forks Community more involved with campus (e.g. Osher Lifelong Learning Program) or asking the public to attend presentations on research
  + Faculty could give feedback through consultation to the City
  + Inclusivity and Diversity - don’t separate inclusivity and diversity; these need to stay together
  + Liberal Arts and Lifelong Learning – go hand in hand
  + Diverse faculty need more support, include gender and sexuality in definition wording makes a difference
  + Lifelong learning – Liberal Arts – rebuild Humanities – College of Arts and Sciences, working at odds
  + We are currently too present – need to be forward focused - Students don’t know about trans students in middle ages
  + How welcoming are we - being a research university, UND needs a place for visiting professors and other academic visitors to stay on campus or close to campus that is economical (hotels are too expensive for lengthier stays) – we used to have Gallery Apartments for this purpose
* To what degree do you feel these Values are part of UND’s culture?

1. What do you see as key differentiators of UND as compared to other institutions?
   * What are our strengths, potential areas of growth, or areas which UND should focus for the next decade?
     1. Compare us to other research institutions
     2. UND is more student centered than other research institutions – a lot of R1 schools’ undergraduate students may not get exposed to undergraduate research like UND students do and some teaching institutions may not lead to peer-reviewed scholarly work as much
     3. Accessibility of faculty to undergraduates – spending time with undergraduates is a strength
     4. Experiential Learning is a strength
     5. UND is very collaborative – easy to put new courses or research together (as compared to large universities)
     6. UND uses full professors to teach (research faculty are in the classroom), this is different in other Large Research Universities – they use instructors (non-tenure teachers)
     7. Students have a number of opportunities to get involved – size and cost of tuition makes it possible to do study abroad, do double majors (cost and size are strengths of UND)
     8. Commitment to serving Native American students - there has been decline in number of Native American students enrolled at UND
2. How do you describe UND to your family, friends, and neighbors
   1. Question not asked (time constraints)
3. What would be your vision for UND’s future?
   * Do you have any ‘big dreams’ for the institution?
     1. Offer classes like the Osher Lifelong Learning Program UND once had
     2. Have a centralized box office for concerts, we hear that people don’t know when things are happening (all-encompassing arts/events calendar and buy tickets),
     3. UND’s newsletter format – too long, could we modify the format
     4. Visitors and professionals come to campus and they are surprised at what they find – this is a great place but people don’t know about it
     5. Students – UND is the most under-rated spot -
     6. Shouldn’t be afraid of big dreams – people are scared of big dreams – they should be allowed to support and dream – have a path to be successful
     7. Have to be sensitive as well – try an initiative and if there is push back that negatively affects UND, need to back off
     8. Some programs have been transformational – programs supporting Native Americans