University of North Dakota Strategic Planning Session Recap
September 7, 2016

Strategic Planning Committee
Wilkerson Commons

Purpose of the meeting:

After the initial kickoff meeting, the UND Strategic Planning Steering Committee set this meeting of the entire UND Strategic Planning Committee to review past core values, discuss their relevance, and frame out potential core values, goals, and metrics (or measurements) of success.

Process:

The Strategic Planning Committee group was divided in two. Half of the committee members reviewed and discussed core values of the university, while the other half discussed metrics of success.

Both teams wrestled with the history of the topics, what they mean for today’s faculty, staff, and students, and in what framework they viewed them for the future.

Lively discussions and friendly debates ensued, and ultimately culminated in both groups coming to a consensus on presenting their ideas to the larger group for discussion.

Group #1 – Tackling Core Values:

This group started with the “Why?” They asked themselves, “Why did they come to UND/Grand Forks?” “Why did they stay here?” Those questions were the jumping off-point to consider the core values of UND.

Generally speaking, the group agreed on about five to six core values that resonated broadly.

Participants cited that it was important to have a culture for students to explore their identities and to have connectedness with faculty and staff, and the community. It was also important to develop adaptive learners for the changing world. The last time that the core values were updated was over 10 years ago. It is not a hasty process, and this was the first step in reviewing
and addressing core values. As the core values continue to take shape over the next couple of months, they will add weight and framework to the overall Strategic Plan.

Additionally, the core values need to support the ultimate vision of establishing UND as the premier institution of the Northern Plains.

**Group #2 - Tackling Metrics:**

The group sought to discuss the importance of measuring how the University could reach excellence overall or in multiple categories. In essence, they focused on how to develop metrics that prove and continue to support the vision as the premier university in the northern plains.

The group asked themselves such things as, “What does a successful student look like?” “How do you measure the quality of students, staff, and faculty?” and “How does the community or state look at success of the university in terms of retention and economic development opportunities?” From multiple inputs, the group identified three areas that resonated with multiple smaller groups in demonstrating excellence. The group determined that in order to capture multiple measurements in the most efficient manner, a matrix of metrics may want to be considered. In that way, the top five to six metrics could be designated based on overlapping values--capturing the most useful data.

**Wrapping Up the Session:**

**Getting things done:** The group weighed in and determined that the structure of the current meeting worked best in terms of ferreting out input, creative ideas, and moving the planning effort forward.

Small, breakout working groups will be used in future meetings.

**Shaping things up:** The review and initial feedback of the core values and metrics was the first step in shaping a final vision for these two topics. Working group members will summarize the data from today’s meeting and prep for further refinement at the next working group meeting.

**Communicating:** The co-chairs posed the question of communicating the efforts of the meetings to all stakeholders and the general public. The group would like to find a means to communicate the process of the strategic planning, the items and topics that the group is addressing, and the outcomes of each meeting. The co-chairs will work toward implementing a consistent communications plan and sharing all results.

**Roadmap for the Future:** The group members understood the need to address core values and metrics, but would like to have a wireframe of the entire strategic process and the deliverable. This will help frame out future discussions, indicate where wider engagement is needed, and
work towards key milestones. The team leaders will develop a visual framework for the process, incorporating the discussions of Wednesday’s meeting, by the next meeting.

**What is the responsibility of the Strategic Planning Committee members?:** There are no specific expectations but there is understanding that working group members will be talking to fellow faculty, staff, and students. Therefore, there must be a mechanism in which they can adequately describe the process and receive feedback.