

USenate Feedback: 4/18-4/25

Tuition and credits

Comment: Why doesn't UND charge for each credit of tuition? The per semester rate of "pay for 12 and get the rest free" is baffling to me. If a student registers for 18 credits pays for 12 how does UND decide which 6 were "free"? How will that work in MIRA?

Response: The commenter is correct that tuition is currently capped for on campus face to face instruction for 12 hours of instruction and it is possible for students to enroll well above that without paying additional tuition. There is no cap, however, for online and distance education courses. These rules are under review and the tuition model may change in the future. The tuition per credit hour of a student enrolled in more than 12 credits will be less than that of a student enrolled in 12 or less credits. For example, the value of a credit hour generated by a student enrolled in 18 credits will be 67% that of a student enrolled in 12 credits. Under MIRA, these credit hours are aggregated by academic unit according to whether they are the college of instruction (60% tuition return) or college of record (40% tuition return). It is therefore possible for two academic units to have generated the same number of credit hours but not receive the same tuition.

Grand Challenges

Comment: As a pillar of the strategic plan Discovery is being defined by the Grand Challenges as they are defined by....who and how exactly?

Response: The arc of the development of the Grand Challenges can be traced through the Strategic Planning Session summaries (<http://blogs.und.edu/strategicplanning/meeting-summaries/>). The concept of Grand Challenges was first articulated by President Kennedy during a presentation during the November 30 meeting. The original version of the Grand Challenges can be found in the associated Powerpoint. The importance of the Grand Challenges were reaffirmed by the President and Provost at the January 11 and Jan 31 meetings. At this same meeting(s) VP for Research Grant McGimpsey presented a revised set of Grand Challenges. There is no description as to how the Grand Challenges were revised, though it is possible that the Excellence in Research/Scholarship Working Group had some input into this process. Strategic Planning working group memberships can be found on the Strategic Planning web site (<http://blogs.und.edu/strategicplanning/working-groups/>). The Grand Challenges were further revised as presented in a February 14 UND Today story (<http://blogs.und.edu/und-today/2017/02/next-step-nexusnd/>). In this article, the drafting of the Grand Challenges is attributed to the Strategic Planning Committee. This is essentially the same form they appear in as presented in the UND Strategic Plan Discovery Pillar presentation of April 19. (<http://blogs.und.edu/strategicplanning/wp-content/uploads/sites/75/2017/04/Strategic-planning-powerpoint.pdf>). As the commenter points out, the Grand Challenges are connected primarily with the Discovery pillar of the strategic plan, though there is reference to it in the Learning pillar under the High Impact Practices goal.

One-Stop

Comment: I've noticed that One-Stop is slowly overgrowing their space. My question is would it make sense to place student government with the student involvement office? Student orgs go to one office for printing but the other office for their mailboxes anyway. Also it seems that combining the two could allow One-Stop to expand. Just a suggestion. :)

Response: Space and service consolidation is one way to save money, but as we have learned, such savings are not always obvious. The SBRRRC student representatives suggest that there is currently plenty of space for student government and student organizations. They also point out that student organizations are under the umbrella of student government. The commenter is encouraged to contact student government to pursue this cost-saving idea further.

Reporting program cuts

Comment: will there be a list of programs/courses that have been discontinued due to budget cuts? how will we all know what's been cut?

Response: The SBRRRC agrees that this is an important question, but it may be difficult to determine. Many factors come into play. A few programs may be terminated outright as a result of the budget reduction process. Others may not be inactivated or terminated officially, but if all the faculty in a small program retire or leave and their positions are not refilled, the programs may still be on the books but no new students may be accepted. This is the current status of the Music Therapy program (See 4/18 USenate Feedback). The general rule about course availability for next fall is that if it is open for enrollment, the home departments will make every effort to have those courses taught. It will be impossible to make a list of discontinued courses and programs until the budget is determined for the next biennium and the final decisions for voluntary separations are made. The SBRRRC will pursue with the Provost the possibility of compiling such a list at a time that makes sense given the above ambiguities.

Frequent flier miles

Comment: I do not know if the University has thought about this but with a number of staff traveling and getting frequent flyer miles Can the University combine those miles and get free tickets rather than the staff members who have been traveling and there family members. I see to many faculty and staff who have travel and have frequent flyer miles. The people I know of have not been flying on there own time to get all the frequent flyer miles that they have all the time. This is very unfair for those who never get to travel but would also help out the budgets a little anyway.

Response: The commenter makes a good point. The SBRRRC is seeking clarification with the VPFO on any policies and procedures relevant to frequent flier miles. In the meantime the SBRRRC suggests that it would be difficult for UND to enforce such a policy in part because many travelers purchase air tickets with their personal credit cards and then file for reimbursement. Fliers are encouraged to buy their tickets in advance through the university to obtain discounted

rates. The full UND policy on employee air travel can be found at <http://und.edu/finance-operations/files/docs/2-19-travel-air-rail.pdf>.

Follow-up on Strategic planning costs (4/11 USenate Feedback)

Comment: How much money has been spent on strategic planning? Specifically how much money has been paid in fees/salary to the consultant? What is the total amount of travel and lodging and meal expenses that have been paid for the consultant? How much faculty and staff time has been invested and can one estimate the cost of this time in dollars? How much in total dollars have been spent on food and beverages for strategic planning events/ meetings?

Response: *[The Strategic Planning committee provided the SBRRRC with this detailed response.]*

It is difficult to place an exact figure on the costs of strategic planning at the UND, specifically in terms of FTEs and calculating what efforts are part of load or not in terms of a dollar amount. The strategic planning process began in August. The process will at least nominally conclude in May, however, the work of entering the metrics and action items into the NDUS system's required strategic planning software (named "SPOL") and assigning responsibility and accountability, and measuring progress toward goals will be an ongoing process.

The Strategic Planning process was also informed by an outside consultant, Barry Horwitz, at a cost of \$77,739.85, which includes travel expenses. In comparison, the VPFO's office was able to report from historical records that the Exceptional UND process utilized the consulting firm Stratus (Heery International) at a contract amount of \$99,740. This figure did not include any extra travel expenses incurred. One of the co-chairs described his role: "Barry's skillful application of framing the right questions empowered our planning process to draw in a variety of constituents of varying persuasions. He coupled this with providing brutally honest insights to our coordinating team. This process of discovery allowed us to foster innovative ideas outside of our comfort zone and, ultimately produce a working plan that is ready for implementation."

There were 45 members who attended regular Planning Committee meetings that typically lasted about three hours each. These were held on: 9/7, 9/21, 10/5, 10/26, 11/9, 11/30, 12/12, 1/11, 1/31, 2/14 and 4/18. Summaries of the work performed during most these meetings can be found here: <http://blogs.und.edu/strategicplanning/meeting-summaries/> Each working group would pull in other staff or faculty experts to help them shape the planning process and met as groups as needed. The engagement working group also helped to plan and execute a number of campus fora related to the core values and strategic initiatives. Other inputs to the planning process came from Institutional Research and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, not the least of which included identifying viable data and metrics to inform the process.

We do not have specific figures related to food and beverage costs, but it was reported that coffee, ice water and popcorn or a modest cookie plate were provided for each the 11 three-hour meetings. The Co-chairs and other organizers also brought treats from time to time at their own expense