

Dot Exercise

The Dot Exercise carried out at the Spring 2006 Advance was based on 16 issues identified by the Environmental Scan Task Force. The issues were identified through an in depth internal and external analysis and examination of numerous sources of information pertinent to the University, city of Omaha, and the State of Nebraska. Advance participants were given three colored dots reflecting different UNO stakeholders—students—green, community—yellow, staff members—blue, and faculty—red. Participants were to place their dots on the wall poster of the issues that they felt were most important. All three dots could be placed on one issue, two dots could be placed on one issue, or each dot could be placed underneath different issues. The number of dots for each issue were tabulated for each of the four groups as well as a total number.

Participants ranked the following issues as most important to them

Community	Issues 3 and 6
Students	Issue 6
Faculty	Issue 8
Staff	Issue 1
Overall	Issue 6

Matrix Exercise

Advance participants then participated in a matrix ranking process. Each ranked all 16 of the issues based on potential for future success, which was stated as the likelihood that the university will be successful in addressing the issue, and importance to UNO's Strategic Plan. If a participant thought an issue was of particular importance and had a high likelihood of success, they would place it near the upper left hand corner. If an issue was very important, but was not likely to succeed, it would be placed near the upper right hand corner of the matrix. The lower left hand corner signifies low importance, but a high chance for success. The lower right hand corner shows little importance and a small chance of success. Issues placed at or near the middle of the matrix usually indicated a participant's ambivalence or lack of clarity surrounding that particular issue. The results of the matrix exercise were presented in varying colors in order to show the importance different groups placed on certain issues (green for students, yellow for community participants, blue for staff members, and red for faculty members). The matrices were then compiled to show an overall pattern regarding the perceived importance of the different issues. Some issues had a heavy clustering of responses, signifying consensus. Other issues had a wide array of placements throughout the matrix, showing the major differing opinions of the participants.