

UNO Strategic Plan Goals 2&3

Looking at UNO Strategic Plan 2nd and 3rd goals, herein is proposed a framework for a “UNO Big Ideas” or “Signature Areas of Excellence” proposal process. We’ll identify 4-5 areas of excellence that allow all colleges to compete and hopefully may span colleges in cross-disciplinary cluster.

The process:

- Formulate finite list of proposals of academic programs or themes
- Identify metrics for evaluating success of the program
- Identify and rationalize 10-15 aspirational institutions for each program
- Create Proposal / Self-study for each program, comparing UNO to aspirational institutions. Must identify alignments, opportunities, and challenges with respect to:
 - Institutional partners (UARC, MOEC, UNMC, UNL, StratComm...)
 - UNO physical plant resources and deficiencies
 - External funding (federal, state, foundation) opportunities
 - Philanthropic and community organizations in Omaha and Nebraska
 - Student-related outcomes (workforce, experiential opportunities, etc)
- Identify resources required to advance amongst aspirational set of institutions, and the metrics by which progress will be assessed.

Groups for planning discussions

- Planning: Academic Deans, facilitated by external consultant/coach
- Advisory: Ad hoc committee of research-intensive faculty
- Feasibility: SVC, Ken Bayles, Doug Ewald, Dan Shipp, Mike Bird, Makayla McMorris

Progress should be reported to and feedback sought from:

- Faculty Senate
- Staff Advisory Committee
- Chairs/Directors semi-annual meeting
- Strategic Planning Steering Committee
- UNO Vice Chancellors and Chancellor

After initial round of investments are decided

- Track metrics to assess progress toward outcomes.
- Create evaluation team and process/template to
 - Review progress annually, provide guidance for subsequent years
 - Prepare annual progress report and external marketing/PR communications
- Declare success or discontinuation after 3-5 years
- Create sustainability plan within colleges’ budgets
- Incorporate projects into UNO Philanthropic Campaign

In future phases,

- Institute similar review process across programs within colleges
- Solicit next round of “UNO Big Ideas” proposals