

AGENDA ITEM

2. Theme Definitions.....Champ Mitchell/Andrew Kelly

Situation: Benchmark I of the strategic planning process requires each committee to develop and agree upon a definition for its assigned strategic priority area. At the July Board of Governors meeting, each committee reviewed and discussed a preliminary draft definition of its assigned strategic priority area.

Background: Through the strategic planning process, which is currently underway, the Board of Governors seeks to develop a set of goals to drive the work of General Administration and constituent institutions for years ahead. The Board of Governors aims to approve a small set of system-wide goals this fall, which will form the basis for the University of North Carolina’s strategic plan.

Assessment: The attached definitions incorporate revisions based on each committee’s feedback at the July meeting.

Action: This item is for discussion.

ACCESS

Access is the opportunity for all North Carolinians who are prepared for the associated rigorous learning experiences to pursue a university education.

Providing North Carolinians access and encouragement to pursue higher education is not confined solely to helping students gain admittance to college. It also includes:

- *Providing multiple access points into the University;*
- *Academic, financial, cultural, and other knowledge-based services to help all students – but particularly for those who are underserved for any reason – to aspire to, enroll in, and graduate from institutions that meet their interests and capabilities.*

STUDENT SUCCESS

Student Success is a multifaceted construct of positive intellectual, personal, and social transformation facilitated by the University. It includes:

- *The timely acquisition of a degree;*
- *The development of competencies – critical thinking, life-long learning, technological mastery, resilience, flexibility, and collaboration, among others – for a meaningful engagement in 21st century life including but not limited to the workforce.*

AFFORDABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

Article IX, Section 9 of the NC State Constitution requires that the General Assembly shall provide that “the benefits of The University of North Carolina and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense.”

That constitutional mandate requires a working compact among the state’s elected officials, taxpayers, and the University to deliver the University’s multifaceted mission at the highest levels of quality in a cost-effective manner without regard to a student’s ability to pay.

EXCELLENT AND DIVERSE INSTITUTIONS

Institutions which, both individually and collectively as a system, are distinct and mission-focused; committed to the fullest development of all human capital; and high-performing. As a result, they are first-choice destinations for prospective students, faculty, and staff.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Universities have an impact on state and regional economies through the students they attract and teach, the research they perform, the innovation they encourage, the people they employ, the services they offer, and the partnerships they build. The University of North Carolina can enhance that impact by focusing on graduates’ readiness to meet the state’s long-term needs; investing in foundational research; speeding the application and translation of discoveries; and deepening partnerships that strengthen local communities and the state’s economy.