

Goal

Develop and implement specific initiatives, guided by the existing strategic plan (“The Iowa Promise,” 2005-10) and coordinated with the Regents’ proposed strategic plan (which focuses on affordable access, accountability, educational quality, sustainability, and economic development). Rather than design a comprehensive new plan, the goal is to focus on emerging opportunities for excellence and on selected areas of continuing priority.

UI strategic focus 2009-2014:

Expanded support for interdisciplinary endeavors that put “*Knowledge into Practice*”:

- Clinical and translational research
- Sustainability
- Letters and arts
- Student safety and well-being

Organization

(1) Six “task forces”: Develop a limited number of initiatives in the strategic areas identified by UI and the Regents, plus fiscally viable plans to implement them.

(2) A “Strategic Initiatives Committee”: Oversee and prioritize TFs’ recommendations. TFs will be composed of faculty, staff, and students; SIC will be composed of chairs of TFs and others. Members and chairs will be appointed in consultation with governance groups.

Emerging and/or expanded opportunities for excellence****TF on recruitment and retention***

(1) Develop options to fund 100 new tenure-track positions over the next 5 years to translate “knowledge into practice” via interdisciplinary endeavors. (2) Identify priority areas for recruitment and retention of professional and scientific staff.

****TF on sustainability***

Develop interdisciplinary initiatives on sustainability-related education, research, and outreach—in partnership with community colleges, industry, and government—that build on UI’s longstanding strengths, such as in sustainable water and renewable energy.

****TF on engagement***

(1) Extend the reach of the University to enhance the lives and communities of the people of Iowa, contributing to their cultural, social, and economic vitality and their physical well-being. (2) Develop a vision and plan to expand significantly the delivery of the University’s academic resources throughout the state, including areas where the Regents have developed educational and research centers (e.g., greater Des Moines).

****TF on student safety and well-being***

This is a joint and on-going university/community task force that will apply available knowledge and best practices to develop strategies to promote safety and well-being. The goal is to reduce and prevent harms that result from the prevailing culture of binge drinking—harms to students' learning, safety, and health, including the oft-associated harms of sexual assault, other forms of violence, and sexual harassment.

Continuing priorities

****TF on student access, learning, and success***

For undergraduates: (1) Promote the success of all freshmen and sophomores by creating the most vibrant and integrated academic and co-curricular experience available in the Big10. (2) Consider whether to review the general education curriculum of the different colleges. (3) Develop a 5-year enrollment management vision and plan to expand access and affordability for resident and non-resident (including international) students.

For graduate/professional students: Develop strategies for selective excellence, including ways to generate, allocate, and re-allocate resources to strengthen high quality and high demand graduate and professional programs.

****TF on diversity and internationalization***

Develop a vision and initiatives for the University to be more diverse and more international, including more study abroad, more international students/scholars on campus, and more partnerships with institutions around the world. What changes will bring into closer alignment the efforts to advance domestic diversity and global diversity?

****Strategic Initiatives Committee:***

In addition to assessing the task forces' recommendations, this overall committee will develop financial and budgeting models—as well as process improvements and administrative efficiencies—to fund the recommended strategic initiatives with new resources, combined resources, and/or reallocated resources.

Timetable and process

- Compose task forces and start work: By November 1, 2008
- Brief task force reports to Strategic Initiatives Committee: By April 1, 2009
- Report of SIC to the President: By June 1, 2009

In carrying out their work, the task forces are expected to seek input from and consult with each other and the campus community (governance organizations, deans, University administration, etc.). The process shall be as consultative and transparent as possible.

Office of the President
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
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