

2018

UNO Strategic Planning Year End Year Report 2017-2018

UNO Office of Academic and Student Affairs
University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Strategic Planning Year End Report 2017-2018

UNO has made several significant changes in 2017-2018 in relation to its Strategic Plan and to its planning processes and tools. This document provides an update on those changes which include a revised plan, the adoption of metrics, and the adoption of UNePlan. In addition, further modifications are being proposed that will incorporate both input from the Chancellor's Transition Advisory groups and recent work on the institutional values statement.

Background: The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska (NU) System designated UNO as Nebraska's Metropolitan University in 1970, shortly after UNO joined the NU System. Yet even before that point in time accessibility, flexibility for non-traditional students, practical education, and collaboration with the community were hallmarks of UNO programs. Although the specific language of UNO's mission statement is periodically updated and/or reaffirmed, the focus on what it means for UNO to be a Metropolitan University mission has remained a constant.

UNO's formal strategic planning efforts began in earnest in the late 1990's. The process has long included a Strategic Planning Steering Committee with broad representation of internal and external constituencies and biannual Strategic Planning Forums. The plan is reviewed regularly with input solicited from the campus community.

Changes to the Strategic Plan, Per Se: The most recent update to the Strategic Plan began in 2016-17. The idea was to create a shorter and more concise mission statement, to adopt a more streamlined 'framework' for the plan, and to consider adding a goal that addressed institutional quality. After a number of iterations, along with discussion and input at several Strategic Planning Forums, a revised plan was adopted in October of 2017 which included new mission and vision statements, a new fourth goal, and updated, streamlined strategies.

Changes to the Process: 2017-18 also saw the adoption of a new Metrics Model. Earlier feedback from UNO's accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), had indicated the need for greater use of data in the planning process. Adding a structured Metrics Model was designed to address that need. In addition, UNePlan, a performance management/strategic planning tool was adopted. Chancellor Gold had designed this tool at a previous institution, has since made use of it at UNMC, and suggested its application would be helpful at UNO as well. UNePlan will provide a way of identifying unit plan alignment with the institutional strategic plan, and will also allow for tracking of initiatives across campus that support fulfillment of the plan and mission. UNePlan is being piloted in 2017-18 and will be more fully implemented in 2018-19.

Changes Still in the Works: While these other changes were underway, Chancellor Gold's Transition Advisory process was generating useful information relevant to the Strategic Plan as well. It was determined that a committee would be created to identify if there should be additional changes to the plan

A Metropolitan University:

- *Commits to the traditional priorities of higher education:*
 - *Teaching,*
 - *Research,*
 - *Service, and*
- *Embraces the additional responsibilities of engaged leadership within the metropolitan region:*
 - *Providing an educated citizenry and workforce,*
 - *Serving as a cultural and intellectual resource for the community,*
 - *Engaging in partnerships with local organizations,*
 - *Responding to the needs of the region, and*
 - *Serving a diverse student body reflecting the demographic composition of the region.*

(Note: This statement adapted from criteria that originated with the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities)

based on that work. The Values portion of the Plan had not been updated yet either. The Values work began with an activity to collect input at the January 2018 Strategic Planning Forum. Both of these efforts are still in process. A revised draft of the Strategic Plan that incorporates the Transition Input and Values work is being shared with all students, faculty, and staff in late April/early May 2018, with the result that a few more changes are yet expected to the plan in the coming months. It is also anticipated that several key plans for specific areas – the Internationalization Lab, Diversity/Equity, and Research – will be formalized and aligned with the broader institutional plan.

Going Forward: Refining our Strategic Plan and processes will be an ongoing endeavor. It is expected that the Metrics Report and UNePlan tracking will support enhanced planning processes. The work continues. Thank you for your involvement.

Go Mavs!

