

AGENDA ITEM

B-1. Consideration of Affordability and Efficiency Definition – Benchmark I... Scott Lampe/Jonathan Pruitt

Situation: Benchmark I of the strategic planning process requires each Committee to develop and agree upon a definition for its assigned strategic priority area. The Committee reviewed and revised a draft definition of Affordability and Efficiency at its July 28, 2016, meeting.

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 version of the definition is a revision of what the Committee submitted after its July meeting, based on suggestions from the Chancellors at their August 30 meeting. It contains substantial modifications to the Committee's definition. These changes have been discussed with Chairman Lampe. This definition is intended for use by the Board and other constituencies in establishing a common understanding of what this strategic priority entails and the importance of the strategic priority to the University.

Action: This item is for discussion and approval by informal vote.

DRAFT DEFINITION
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.

Suggestions from the Strategic Planning Committee:

Add specific references to containing or reducing tuition, fees, and other student costs.

The Strategic Planning Committee noted that this draft shows some movement from the Budget and Finance Committee’s draft in that it does not have the same emphasis on cost containment and affordable tuition as the Budget and Finance Committee’s draft and does not mention accountability for reducing barriers to student success or promoting operational excellence as does the Committee’s July draft. This version introduces the concept of a “compact” involving elected officials and taxpayers. The Budget and Finance Committee’s draft submitted in July did not contain reference to actions by elected officials or taxpayers.