



**UNC STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC FORUM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY**

November 8, 2016

## UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC FORUM: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fayetteville State University participated in a UNC Board of Governors Strategic Plan Public Forum on November 3, 2016 with 175 attendees. Attendees consisted of primarily faculty, staff and students, and was announced to the public. The written comments and spoken comments from that event were synthesized and compiled by FSU Assistant Vice Chancellors, Associate Dean, and Faculty members; and, the executive summary of the themes, key issues and remarks are reported below:

### 1) ACCESS

- It would be helpful for Political Science faculty and students to know about events on campus that are political in nature so that they can get involved.
- It is important to understand the FSU demographics of students. FSU students are not studying at the same level as other students in the system. Why don't the UNC schools have the same resources? The speaker (a faculty member) notices the difference between UNC Chapel Hill where her son attends and FSU. They have more resources. She would like UNC to look into this.
- FSU should have more merit-based scholarships available to students. Our institution loses students due to financial problems. It is regretful that students move to other institutions because of financial issues.
- Democratization of access to higher education is needed, particularly for historically marginalized populations. HBCUs should be better funded and supported. Students should be given access to better support and more scholarships.
- FSU should offer tuition waivers of family members of FSU employees. UNC-Chapel Hill offers such waivers, but FSU does not.
- A foreign faculty member stated that he received degree for free in his home country (Morocco) and asked why not in the U.S.? The UNC/U.S. should work toward this as it would address the issue of access and affordability.
- FSU has lost a lot of students to online programs coming to Fort Bragg from outside institutions.

### 2) STUDENT SUCCESS

- FSU needs to make sure that advisors provide students with the appropriate and accurate advice because she (student) has had problems. She would also like faculty to be great teachers; many are, but not all.
- International faculty with accents are difficult to understand and impede ability for students to learn the subject matter. Evaluate teachers that are good and communicate effectively.
- FSU students might be lacking "soft skills", so we should focus on helping students acquire such skills. There is a course about "Conversations" that could be offered.
- Seniors often are not able to get the courses needed because only 1 or 2 are offered per semester prolonging graduation.
- Speaker suggested that students can take courses at other institutions so as not to delay graduation.
- FSU should improve and expand Saturday and evening classes as well as the university core requirements to help students who work.
- Departments and programs on campus need to reevaluate the courses they offer to ensure students' competitiveness in the job market.
- The pedagogy of lecturing is not the best approach.
- It is necessary to improve the quality of high school education before students reach the college level.

- Classes should be cancelled tomorrow when President Obama visits the campus because of the learning opportunity of such an experience.
- Classes should also be cancelled during the job fair on November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The model of student teaching should be redefined in the School of Education at FSU. It was recommended that students need funding to cover all of the tests involved (PRAXIS). One approach could be to reinstate the teaching fellow program that allowed students to work in the public schools upon graduation to repay their scholarship.
- Academic support is needed for a variety of students, not just to help students pass a course but to help them excel in today's economy. The challenge is that academic support is grant funded. These programs need some state funds as well to offset grants. Developmental courses are funded by the state, but academic support is not. We need to find a way.

### **3) AFFORDABILITY AND EFFICIENCY**

- Students need more voice as it relates to changes that affect them. Some changes were made during the summer when they were away. (seemed to be suggesting changes to tuition and fees)
- Student was concerned that some students were removed from residence halls for non-payment and it was around the time that Hurricane Matthew hit.
- Scholarships should be offered to students with GPAs of 2.5 or lower. As a result, these students must find jobs off-campus because they do not have scholarships and cannot devote their time and energy toward studying.
- Students are being sent home because of lack of funds; they are being advised to take out loans. Again it was suggested about offering scholarships to students with 2.5 GPAs.
- Tax payer dollars go to keep the tuition low at FSU. What if we allowed out-of-state students to attend at in-state tuition levels?
- If tuition increases, will financial aid increase also?

### **4) ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- We need to concentrate our efforts to connect with the surrounding community, particularly humanities departments.
- Glad community engagement has been added to the UNC strategic plan; do not forget the humanities—all 17 institutions have great arts programs and should not be forgotten relative to funding.
- Excellent teachers are needed at all levels, K-college. We must entice great teachers to stay in North Carolina, in the UNC system, and at FSU. We must do a better job in recruiting students to go into these professions; for example, recruit students in middle school and help them achieve their teaching goals.
- It was suggested that when we have disasters, is there a system to have food drives and services. This student did not seem to be aware that FSU and the community had such services and campaigns currently in support of the Hurricane Matthew natural disaster.
- Affordability is one of the highest priorities. Commenter suggested that there is an opportunity for merit- and need-based grants to be used better if universities had flexibility which would be particularly great for HBCUs. The CITI budget does have some funds that could be used, which would be very beneficial for HBCUs.

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- Funding for university can be significantly increased via grants written by faculty; but faculty need to be given more time to focus on writing grants.
- Research is grant driven. UNC should set aside funds to support faculty who write grants.

### 5) EXCELLENT AND DIVERSE INSTITUTION

- At an HBCU, students should have more access to a curriculum that explains the identities and history of African Americans.
- Student stated that more residence halls should be made available to students.
- Hurricane Matthew: Develop a better plan for future weather crises. Residence halls got flooded (Bryant Hall).
- HBCUs are having difficulty keeping their legacies and histories in the forefront of their missions. The speaker felt that these institutions are losing their respective identities and moving toward being PWIs (predominantly white institutions).
- Classes should be face-to-face and not just online. Many online classes cannot replicate the quality of in-classroom courses.
- It is necessary to have professors from different countries and cultures in order to ensure a global perspective.
- A student recommended that shared governance among staff, students, and faculty would be greatly appreciated by everyone on campus; for example, other students in addition to the SGA president could participate or interact with the FSU Board of Trustees.
- The FSU Department of Chemistry is seeking accreditation by the American Chemistry Association and would like assistance from the UNC system or other campuses who could share information.

### 6) OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER

- Employees who get advanced degrees should be considered for promotion rather than hiring from outside.
- A student suggested that FSU create a program for students interested in going to medical school.
- A Chronicle in Higher Education article about college presidents indicates that tenures are getting shorter. The trend of bringing a corporate model to academe is creating issues. Also, funding models are not adjusting for inflation. This faculty member suggests helping President Spellings and the Board of Governors to try to come up with a plan to the legislature to take politics out of UNC GA governance such as BOG members not being appointed by the legislature.
- At the conclusion of the comments, Chancellor James Anderson responded to the audience regarding several of their ideas and recommendations as follows:
  - Affordability: A lot of questions and ideas were mentioned. That is why we are doing a capital campaign for scholarships with a target of \$14 million. Plans are to release the money at the end of next year.
  - When he became chancellor, he inherited a scholarship deficit and it took three years to make up the deficit and then it was necessary to rebuild the scholarship fund. We are there now and will be able to do better in the future.
  - Regarding offering pre-medicine, FSU can improve on partnerships with medical schools. We must continuously weigh priorities and understand the type of institution that we are.

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- We may need to increase partnerships with FTCC and other community colleges as well as 2+2 programs.