



North Carolina
School of Science
and Mathematics



10/20/2016

The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics participated in a UNC Board of Governors Strategic Plan Public Forum on October 17, 2016 with 15 attendees. Attendees consisted of faculty, staff and students. The sign-in sheets are included as an appendix to this report. The written comments and spoken comments from that event were synthesized and compiled by the Chancellor's Office and the executive summary of the themes, key issues and remarks are reported below.

1) ACCESS

Feedback focused on:

- providing more formal training and professional development for teachers, with two-to-five year benchmarks;
- working toward a balance for those who are teaching well, but do not have as many grants or publications, or for those who are more skilled at securing grants and publishing research, but whose teaching skills need to be strengthened.

2) STUDENT SUCCESS

Written and oral comments emphasized:

- the inclusion of the Humanities and Liberal Arts as a critical part of student success;
- Humanities study as “exceptionally important” in fostering intellectual development and community engagement and involvement;
- the development of reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills; being able to understand differences and think critically - “the core of the social and political.”;
- the devaluing of Humanities degrees by educational leadership;
- the elevation of STEM degrees because of their greater (or perceived) potential for economic return;
- the role that non-STEM courses play in the long-term success of students preparing for STEM careers;
- the hope that when considering the short-term benefits a degree program might offer a student, the long-term benefits for students of a broader range of courses will also be considered;
- acknowledgement that universities are preparing many students for career opportunities that do not yet exist, and that there are different paths to educational success, some of which we are only just discovering;
- how we think about 21st-century skills, and if we go beyond STEM skills or projected income when thinking about them.

3) AFFORDABILITY AND EFFICIENCY

The discussion and comment cards included:

- concerns that the NC legislature has cut funding for higher education, and for how these cuts impact the ability of vulnerable communities to advance educationally;
- support for increased funding to properly train the next generation of teachers and professors throughout the state;
- criticism of athletic fees charged by universities, which are “out of proportion and a significant burden on the majority of students who are not interested in or participating in athletics.”;
- discomfort with the damaging perception created by athletic fees;
- acknowledgement that , while UNC System schools remain more affordable than other options in higher education, costs are still rising, and are out of reach for many who would like to continue their education.

4) ECONOMIC IMPACT

Issues noted include:

- ease of access to resources and guidance for students;
- increased shared services between larger and smaller campuses;
- increased ability of smaller campuses to innovate, market their ideas, and commercialize;
- concerns about the support level for research that isn’t immediately commercializable, but is nonetheless important.

5) EXCELLENT AND DIVERSE INSTITUTION

Topics raised include:

- the concern that faculty and staff were not engaged in the BOG Strategic Plan process at an earlier point;
- the hope that the emphasis on “areas of distinction” will help individual schools shine in their “area” (as opposed to having several schools attempting to distinguish themselves in the same area);
- the desire for SHRA employees to have a stronger voice within the BOG;
- the need for career development opportunities for SHRA employees working within the UNC System;
- the need for the BOG to advocate for SHRA employees for raises and career development.

6) OTHER ISSUES TO CONSIDER

None noted.

UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS STRATEGIC PLAN PUBLIC FORUM: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



(17) maybe a few comments

INSTITUTION NCSSM

| NAME (Please print) | INSTITUTION AFFILIATION (Faculty, Staff or Student) | Check if you plan to make remarks during Open Comment |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Robert Allen | STAFF | |
| Wyatt Jemison | student | |
| Bob Gotwals | faculty | |
| Crystal Woods | staff | Maybe |
| Robert Allen | ~ | Maybe? |
| Alexandra Jackson | Staff | maybe |
| Joshua Zhou | Student | Maybe |
| Northen Nalwa | student ~ | maybe |
| Terry Lynch | staff | no |
| Alan Powell | Faculty | Maybe I can |
| Cecile Tougas | Faculty | maybe |
| Lisa Watts | staff | no |
| Guido Gabrielli | Faculty | no |
| Katie Waystaff | Staff | no |
| Jayce Ventimiglia | staff | no |
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