University of Illinois
Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Retreat, July 22, 2015

Overview of Breakout Group Discussions

I. Common Themes

*Competitive advantages of the University’s scale and scope.*

- Human capital: number, longevity, and breadth and depth of expertise.
- Alumni: 700,000 plus, spanning decades and geography. Extraordinary collective impact. A currently underutilized resource.
- UI presence in every Illinois county.
- World-class faculty.
- Breadth of academic offerings: Can prepare any student for anything at any point in his or her career or life. Limitless opportunities for intellectual exploration and growth.
- Breadth and depth of research: Can provide solutions for any problem or challenge, with potential impact from the local to the global level. Endless opportunities for interdisciplinary connections and networks.
- Diversity: representation from every aspect of humanity, the interaction of which offers boundless potential for individual and collective growth.

*Strength in medicine and public health, welfare, and wellbeing.*

A leader in innovation, application, and delivery across broad and diverse geography (rural, urban & everything in between).

*Chicago: A greatly under-leveraged resource.*

- Only world-class city in the Midwest.
- A transportation hub.
- A crucible for exploring and devising solutions to the problems of the urban environment.

*The potential of the University of Illinois as a system.*

- Ambiguous relationship of the campuses to each other.
- Ambiguous role of the University with respect to the campuses.
- Enormous potential for enhanced collaboration/coordination among complementary institutions.
- Potential of relationships with other Illinois public institutions and community colleges.
- The need to define clear and mutually enhancing identities and branding for the University and the campuses.
A compact with the State
A step towards regulatory relief, greater certainty/predictability, and enhanced institutional autonomy in return for higher level of accountability, efficiency, and return on investment.

Providing leadership for the transformation and betterment of the entire Illinois educational pipeline.
• K-12; “Cradle through career.”
• Lifelong learning redefined – every citizen, everywhere, any time, in diverse forms.
• Becoming the national voice for public higher education, articulating its value in economic and moral terms.

“Attract, attract, attract” – becoming the resource of choice for all Illinois
• Increased student yield.
• Lifelong connection and engagement.
• An Illinois population that comes to UI for solutions.
• A State government that reaches to UI for policy guidance and research.
• “Top of mind” for all people of Illinois.

Establishing as a goal a set of global, societal grand challenges
Challenges that UI collectively could address better than anyone.

II. Some Important Gaps in the Breakout Group Discussions

What the State of Illinois wants to be and what its interests/needs are
Essential to determine the priorities of Illinois citizens, the Legislature, the Governor.
• This is important to know if UI is to become a true leader in responding to State needs.
• UI can be a catalyst for this discussion and debate, and ultimately a source of solutions.

Few explicitly student-focused initiatives
Little identification by the breakout groups, despite broad acknowledgement of the need for the University to be response to students of all types.
• How should UI define to current and prospective students the benefits of being part of a system as opposed to a single campus?
• How can the academic and co-curricular resources of the entire University – across all of its campuses and sites – be made available to all students for their benefit?

Fundraising and the role of the UI Foundation.
This may reflect a lack of awareness of the Foundation’s role and its potential going forward.
Athletics

The role of and goals for athletics at UI – an important although often highly-charged topic – requires more consideration.

III. A Few Pleasant Surprises

- It is no longer taboo to talk about being a “system”
- A goal of doubling the number of African-American students seems to have broad acceptance.