

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 responsive 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.