Town Hall: April 27, 2016
Update: State of Illinois

Higher education funding released

State schools to get $600 million amid budget standoff

By Kim Geiger
Chicago Tribune

DO YOUR JOB!!

#VOTE FOR MAP

#FUNDOURFUTURE
Update: Executive Budget Committee

• Cabinet-level working group
  – Appreciate all aspects of NIU’s mission
  – Experienced in building and managing budget processes

• Members
  – Alan Phillips, VP for Administration & Finance (co-Chair)
  – Lisa Freeman, Executive VP & Provost (co-Chair)
  – Jerry Blazey, Interim VP for RIPs
  – Brett Coryell, VP for Information Technology
  – Mike Mann, AVP for State and Government Relations and Board Liaison.
Charge to Executive Budget Committee

Create and implement a **multi-year budget timeline and process** that:

- **directly link the university mission and its budget**, including both revenue enhancements and expenses;

- **encourage responsibility for budget development and execution at the levels of departments, colleges and divisions**;

- Ensure that the process is **transparent, fiscally responsible, accountable**, and **academically responsive**.
Program Prioritization: Goals

• Allocate limited resources more strategically to support excellence and enable growth
• Increase the overall efficiency and quality of academic and administrative programs across the university
• Encourage and support data-informed decision making
Program Prioritization: Goals

• Align NIU’s budget with the university mission to better serve our students, faculty, staff and our region
• Position NIU as an institution that is stronger and more innovative, with a more sustainable academic and financial model
Program Prioritization: Overview

• Rigorous and methodical review of all NIU programs - both academic and administrative

• Inclusive of all NIU stakeholders

• Facilitated by a coordinating team with diverse expertise

• Guided by evaluation criteria developed with input from the entire university community and finalized through shared governance
Program Prioritization: Overview

• Informed by quantitative and qualitative data analyses and narratives created by program leaders

• Conducted by two task forces comprised of current faculty and staff, with members nominated by NIU faculty, staff, students
Program Prioritization: Guiding Principles

- All programs, academic and administrative were reviewed
- All employee contracts will be honored
- All students will be able to finish their academic programs
Program Prioritization: Timeline

Fall 2014
✓ Explored Program Prioritization; Formed Coordinating Team
✓ Preliminary communications with university community

Spring 2015
✓ Established Guiding Principles
✓ Defined Academic and Administrative Programs
✓ Developed criteria with broad university participation
✓ Nominated and selected Task Force Members

Fall 2015
✓ Program data were analyzed by program faculty and staff in the form of “program narratives”
Program Prioritization: Timeline

Spring 2016

☑ Task Forces review data and narratives

☒ Task Forces prioritize programs into five categories and provide recommendations to NIU community -

*Reports available Monday, May 2*

☒ Task Force Work Ends

☒ Post-report (Implementation) Phase Begins
Program Prioritization: Timeline

March 29
Task Force Co-Chairs speak to councils
Mar. 30 - Apr. 14

April 27
Town Hall Meeting

May 2
Task Forces issue final reports

May 23
All responses and feedback due

July 15
Divisional action plans complete

Program Prioritization
Next Steps
Timeline

Reports posted on website w/ feedback mechanism
Shared governance groups create formal responses

Responses and feedback sent to program leaders
VPs/Division leaders work on action plans
Council of Deans works on unified plan

Action plans go to President's Cabinet for review
Executive Budget Comm. & APC/RSB reps review plans
President reviews plans, ensures recommendations are reflected in budgets presented to BoT
What's in a Task Force Report?

I. Introduction

II. Task Force Methodology

III. Results
   I. Recurring Themes
   II. General Category Characteristics
   III. Creation of New Programs and Voluntary Elimination of Existing Program
   IV. General Comments and Broad Recommendations

IV. Categorization of Programs

V. References

VI. Appendices
Each program is placed into one of five categories:

- Candidate for enhanced resources
- Continue with no change in resources
- Continue with reduced resources
- Requires transformation
- Subject to additional review; candidate for phase-out

The task forces have been charged with placing roughly 20% of programs in each category.
Program Prioritization

Last fall, NIU began a program prioritization process that will be critical to the growth of the university and our ability to deliver on our cornerstone goal of student career success. Its goal is to build a strong foundation for maintaining and improving the quality of academic and administrative programs across NIU, by assuring that our programs reflect our institutional mission and strategic goals. Program prioritization will help accelerate our ability to create stronger and more lasting connections across our “triangle” of students, faculty and the outside world.

Program prioritization has been employed by more than half of public universities in the United States. Consequently, these universities have used the assets redeployed through the process to reinvest in strong and growing programs and innovate through the development of new programs. The result has been enhanced program effectiveness and in many cases increased enrollment.

While program prioritization is a concept embraced by universities across North America and beyond, the details of its implementation necessarily vary from institution to institution. At NIU, the prioritization process will be:

- Inclusive of all campus stakeholders
- Open and transparent
- Facilitated by a coordinating team with diverse expertise
How to Provide Feedback?

Feedback

Feedback will be accepted through May 23, 2016.

Please let us know if there are specific programs leaders you would like to receive this feedback.

Share your Feedback on the Task Force Reports

Specific Comments or Questions *

NIU Affiliation (optional)  Email (optional)
Program Prioritization: Timeline

**Next Steps Timeline**

- **March 29**: Process Update; Next Steps outlined
- **Mar. 30 - Apr. 14**: Task Force Co-Chairs speak to councils
- **April 27**: Town Hall Meeting
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**Reports posted on website w/ feedback mechanism**

**Shared governance groups create formal responses**

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What’s expected in an Action Plan?

Reaction to Specific Task Force Recommendations

– Do you consider the recommendation to be reasonable?  
  Yes/No (if no, why not)

– What type of response do you propose?  
  (No Action, Routine Action, Significant New Action)

– If a significant new action is proposed, provide the following:
  • Description of Follow-up Steps (w/ Timeline)
  • Individuals Impacted
  • Resources Required/Released (short and long term)
  • Anticipated Outcomes
Implementation

- No snap decisions have or will be made. Feedback, collaborative analysis and discussion will inform final recommendations.

- Actions related to final program prioritization recommendations may be initiated in FY17 and will continue for 4-5 years and beyond.
Implementation

• Established curricular and shared governance processes will be respected as changes are implemented.

• Data-informed decision making will continue to be encouraged and supported as changes are implemented and progress is assessed.
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Questions?