

NIU BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRIORITIES – FISCAL YEAR 2018

1) Develop and execute a thoughtful and strategic presidential search.

- a. Utilize feedback from the NIU community to create the necessary framework and process to select NIU's next permanent president.
- b. Establish a search preparation committee in spring 2018, to work on behalf of the Board, to proactively reach out to all segments of the NIU community to solicit input regarding the search process and presidential qualifications.
- c. Appoint a search advisory committee and select an executive search firm to support the process, no later than September 2018.
- d. Keep the NIU community informed about progress on the framework and process.

2) Grow our student enrollment and enhance student success.

- a. Develop specific, achievable enrollment (recruitment and retention) goals for the upcoming year as well as a strategic, data-informed enrollment plan for the next 3-5 years, in collaboration with NIU leadership.
- b. Continue focus on increasing NIU graduation rates. Establish targets as part of the strategic enrollment plan.
- c. Enhance NIU students' experience, academic and career success.
 - i. Improve physical plant to provide students with an enhanced social and residential experience by supporting initiatives such as HSC renovation, dining plan revision and town-gown dialogue.
 - ii. Implement changes to academic support services suggested by Program Prioritization.

3) Distinguish NIU among IL public universities by advancing excellence in all aspects of University's mission: teaching and learning, research and scholarship, creativity and artistry, engagement and outreach.

- a. Support the university's efforts to increase stakeholder understanding about the ways that NIU's strengths support our value proposition.
- b. Leverage the strategic, operational thinking and recommendations born out of Program Prioritization to align resources and budget, and direct future investments in ways that acknowledge and support our values and aspirations.

4) Achieve a stronger, more self-sustainable financial model, by supporting the university's efforts to:

- a. Identify and support opportunities for revenue generation;
- b. Increase operational efficiency and effectiveness; reduce administrative costs.
- c. Increase faculty, staff and student satisfaction, as well as invest in our human resources.

5) Foster a culture of operational, fiscal and ethical excellence.

- a. Create a university-level compliance program, supported by an ethics officer, a policy librarian, and a university level compliance coordinator, to integrate roles and responsibilities related not only to ethics and compliance, but also to policy development and management.

- b. Increase access to and participation in ethics and compliance training for both the Board of Trustees and NIU employees.
- c. Work with the university to reduce critical audit findings.
- d. Model ethical behavior and operational transparency.

The Chair requests Board of Trustees approval of the FY 2018 board goals, so that the approved goals can be posted on-line, linked to the NIU Board of Trustees homepage.