

UT System Strategic Planning Project August 2011 Monthly Report

Overview

The University of Tennessee System has launched a strategic planning project that will guide and direct UT-Wide Administrative activities over the next decade. The university's initiative comes at a pivotal time for higher education in the United States and in Tennessee, with ambitious national and state agendas driving bold efforts to raise enrollment and graduation rates, ensure student achievement and success, expand economic and workforce development, and respond to the urgent challenges and opportunities of globalization. The new UT Strategic Plan will be a collaborative effort between the university administration, the Board of Trustees, the campuses and institutes, faculty, staff, students, and other constituencies across the university and the state. Activities during the 10-month project will be transparent and inclusive and supported by consistent and sustained communications, including a website.

The plan will be designed to fulfill the System Mission— to advance the educational, discovery and outreach programs of the UT campuses and institutes. Outcomes-driven, the plan will be designed to support and increase UT's impact on education and outreach as a land-grant university and in workforce development, economic impact, research partnerships and commercialization, and community-building across the state. The state's new "Public Agenda" for higher education establishes the direct link between the state's economic development and its educational system, with this overarching goal: that Tennessee meets the projected national average in educational attainment by 2025.

It will be facilitated by The Napa Group, a strategy, leadership, and organizational design consulting firm specializing in public and private university strategic planning, including the University of Tennessee Alumni Association's new five-year plan.

Primary Themes of President DiPietro

1. Design and implement a "best practice" model for System academic outcomes
2. Invest in capital programs and capital maintenance that result in a first-class experience for faculty, students, and the community
3. Define outreach by a land-grant university in this century
4. Promote statewide advocacy for the UT System of higher education
5. Create and apply research solutions that advance the state's economic development and enhance lives in Tennessee, the nation, and around the globe

6. Ensure revenue growth and financial sustainability
7. Become an employer of choice and best place to work
8. Develop a collaborative Systemwide communications plan that strengthens and supports the positioning and visibility of the University, its campuses, and institutes

Key Activities and Timeline

- Steering Committee first meeting and official launch [September 28, 2011]
- Data-gathering and research [October 2011-January 2012]
- Task Forces develop major initiatives [October 2011-January 2012]
- Strategic plan first draft [February 2012]
- Constituent engagement/feedback [December 2011-April 2012]
- Final plan draft [April-May 2012]
- Financial modeling [March – April 2012]
- Final plan approved [June 2012]

Progress to Date

- Board of Trustees presentation, August 24, 2011 – Project overview and work groups
Members of the Board broke into work groups and provided perspectives on the following four questions:
 - What are the unique qualities and distinguishing features of the University of Tennessee as a pacesetter for land-grant universities in this century?
 - In what areas can the university most powerfully support the state’s economic development and workforce?
 - What are some of the opportunities for expansion of UT research through commercialization and public-private partnerships?
 - What key elements strengthen the position of the University of Tennessee as a highly valuable asset for the state?
- Steering Committee formation initiated, August 2011

Next Steps – September-October, 2011:

- Steering Committee launch meeting – September 28, 2011, Knoxville
- Strategic Plan website – September 2011

- “Listening sessions” (campuses, institutes, and other key stakeholders); other data-gathering, research, and analysis – September-October 2011