

Northwestern

ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Opening

So, what is the state of the University? How are we doing? Are we making progress? What is our future? Of course, I am acutely aware that the absence of a state budget and questions of how this is impacting our University are uppermost in everyone's mind; the answers are based on Northeastern's Strategic Plan—our Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals. Additionally, each Goal has a series of Action Steps;

Progress in implementing our Strategic Plan is demonstrated in two ways. First, are we doing what we say we are going to do? (Do we walk the talk?) These are the annual Work Plans and their Results. Both the Results of the FY2016 Work Plan and the new activities selected for the coming year, the FY2017 Work Plan, are posted on the Strategic Planning webpage, to be found under the "About" section or by using the search function.

Here are my reflections on all of this information:

we must increase our market share just to stay even. We can't allow others to out-compete us. We are working to expand our marketing initiatives.

together, with new initiatives to support student success, we continue to address this, and I call on everyone to help.

We must also continue to be vigilant, assuring that we have the best combination of course sections in an era of fewer offerings; that we coordinate services; that we continue to have excellent teaching that includes new content and the latest approaches; that our requirements are clear; and that we have helpful, positive, effective interactions to assist all students on their paths to success.

We must increase our grant activity to support many aspects of student learning, faculty development, recruitment and retention. Just

The Education building—a CDB project—remains on hold.

The presidents of all the public universities continue to work together through weekly conference calls—we have done so for nearly 18

The Operating and Capital Request Budgets for FY2018 were presented to the Board of Trustees last Thursday. All of these budgets are provided on the Board of Trustees webpage. The Request Budgets are simply an exercise with a due date to the IBHE. In recent years

It also goes without saying that for the sixth consecutive year, we have accommodated the delay in receiving any state funding (what we formerly called our appropriation). Our ability to manage this is based on our careful use of tuition dollars, our ability to borrow from our reserve funds until the state funds are received, and careful limited expenditures. Of course, this last year the delay was close to impossible

As state support effectively dwindles and we are presented with more and more operational challenges, we must take steps to become ever projects, and raise additional private funds for student scholarships and other strategic initiatives. In order for Northeastern to cope in this

Moving Forward

Let me now turn to some of the things we are doing as we move forward.

The Nest

students, graduate students, and international students.

As we anticipated, we are leveraging our Chicago location and our transformative educational experience to attract students from across the region and around the globe. Student housing complements our excellent academic experience, fosters a greater sense of community for all our students, and improves retention. It also supports growth and economic vitality for the University and for the area as a whole.

Shared Governance

Sesquicentennial Anniversary

In 2017 Northeastern Illinois University will celebrate its sesquicentennial. Founded in 1867 in Blue Island, Illinois as Cook County Normal School, the University traces its roots to the beginnings of teacher training in our State. Throughout our history we have remained resolute in our commitment to meeting the needs of each new generation of students. A Sesquicentennial Planning Committee has been named to begin developing our plans for a grand celebration. Also, a book of our history has been commissioned. It is titled published historian, and a member of Northeastern's Alumni Advisory Board. The manuscript, which I very much enjoyed reading, is in

Closing

So, what is the state of the University? Our foundation is strong, we have many good things in place and a committed and talented faculty a dark cloud over the University. It is extraordinarily hard to deal with what is unknown and beyond our control. This is a hinge time in history, for our nation, our state, and our university—we are living it. Let us continue to work to turn this crisis into a challenge to be met. My use of the pronoun “we” might give pause since my role will be changing, but know that my commitment remains.

Mission: Northeastern Illinois University, as a public comprehensive university with locations throughout Chicago, provides an exceptional environment for learning, teaching, and scholarship. We prepare a diverse community of students for leadership and service in our region and in a dynamic multicultural worldr state, and our uni