Draft Priorities
HU Vision 2020
Strategic Planning Steering Committee
April 27, 2015

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee was constituted in late Fall, 2014 and began collecting input from various university constituencies in Jan., 2015. The following DRAFT priorities emerged from numerous ideas, suggestions and recommendations provided through open campus forums, discussion groups, and community sessions. While several themes and topics have been proposed for consideration in the planning and Vision of HU through 2020, these initial (3) priority areas are offered for community consideration. As a committee, we have attempted to think of bold and ambitious goals and priorities to focus upon that will move HU forward in a positive direction and help to define and confirm who we are and what we wish to be known for as a university. Other major areas suggested for priorities include: infrastructure and improved communication. The committee wishes to seek additional input from HU Centers and receive input on these proposed priorities before finalizing our targeted five (5) institutional priorities for HU Vision 2020.

**** Proposed Priorities ****

A. Academic Excellence and Student Success Priority
Highlands University is committed to establishing and strengthening structures and programs to enhance students’ success at all levels of study.

Examples of possible actions recommended to address this priority:

- More engaged teaching at all levels (lower division, upper division, graduate)
- Increase active (experiential and applied) learning
- Coordinated academic and student support services
- Collaboration and increased interdisciplinary areas of study
- Approach diversity of student backgrounds, experiences and perspectives as resources
- Ensure meaningful student-faculty engagement in advising and mentorship
- Increased completion of first degree; transitions/pathways to graduate education
- Increase success of first generation students
- Build activities in learning structures to increase learning, retention and graduation
B. Community Partnerships Priority

In recognition of the interdependency between university and our surrounding communities, Highlands University will focus on the development and enhancement of collaborative relationships in areas of community service, academics, economic development, recreation and entertainment.

Examples of possible actions recommended to address this priority:

- Development of a campus Community Liaison office to coordinate volunteer, social, and enrichment opportunities and effective communication between the campus and surrounding community.
- Support for and encouragement of local businesses that serve that Highlands community.
- Improved communication between the university and surrounding communities.
- Institutional partnerships to develop transportation options.

C. Technology Integration Priority

Highlands University will leverage technology in strategic ways to support quality and innovation in teaching and learning, operations, and student services and to support a connected, synergistic campus.

Examples of possible actions recommended to address this priority:

- Create a university-wide IT Plan
- Establish quality standards for online learning (Quality Matters)
- Data accessibility and transparency; access to real time data to drive effective decision-making
- Robust training and professional development in the use of technology we have available (i.e., Collaborate, D2L, Banner, etc.)
- Student orientation, training and resources (address student readiness for online learning)
- Personalized learning options for students (accessibility to multiple pathways to learning).
- Improve communication through technology (individualized and targeted communication—connected campus).