

Northwestern

ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

State of the University Address

President Sharon K. Hahs September 24, 2015

Thank you, Chair Howenstein. Thanks to you and to all members of the Faculty Senate for the invitation to speak to the University community and for your leadership.

Good afternoon Northeastern!—and welcome to the State of the University Address. And a special greeting to everyone who is viewing this from CCICS, El Centro, and CCAS.

Appreciation

As we begin this afternoon, I would like to take a moment to express our appreciation for contributions to the life of the University as

Newly Promoted and Tenured Faculty

The Bernard Brommel Research Award, Emina Stojkovic, and
The Audrey Reynolds Distinguished Teaching Award recipient, Cynthia Moran

Excellence Award Recipients—Teaching Professionals, Instructors, and Academic Support Professionals

Employee Excellence Awards Recipients

University Planning and Budget Council of 2014-15, for your guidance and leadership for the Refresh of the Strategic Plan and the budget process.

All members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and the Planning Team, for your execution of the planning process.

Marketing and PR team, led by Mark LaCien, for the development of our new recruitment video and other materials.

Action Plan, an important part of our compliance.

The Purchasing-Card Implementation Team, for the pilot implementation of P-cards.

And now, as is our tradition, I would like to recognize the members of the University who have served Northeastern for more than 20

Opening

This year, as we gather to consider the state of the University, I want to share sample marketing pieces we have developed to enhance our branding and reputation and strengthen our recruitment work. Let's begin with aerial views of the Caruthers Center (our Frank Lloyd Wright historic building), our new El Centro, and our Main Campus. Take a look.

We are always proud of our programs—including those at CCAS and the University Center of Lake County—it's nice to pause to be proud of our interesting and beautiful physical locations as well.

So, what is the state of the University? How are we doing? Are we making progress? What is our future? This year, I am acutely aware

a state appropriation for FY2016, the answers to how are we doing, and what is our future, are based on Northeastern's Strategic Plan—our the Action Steps. Collectively, these activities are called the Annual Work Plan.

In fall of 2014, the University initiated a process to refresh the 2008 Strategic Plan. It was led by a 15-member Steering Committee of UPBC members and senior leadership, and co-chaired by Dr. Marcelo Sztainberg, UPBC Chair, and myself. The Planning Team of 39 was developed from nominations of faculty, staff and students. Review and recommendations began on University Day, October 9, and continued through December. At each step, input, including electronic input, was sought from the entire University community. The polished draft was reviewed in open sessions on the Main Campus, El Centro and CCICS in mid-December. The UPBC endorsed the new plan on January 9, 2015; I approved it the same day. The Board of Trustees gave its endorsement on February 5, 2015. The Plan in its entirety can be found on the Strategic Planning webpage. The University thanks the members of the University Planning and Budget Council, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, and the Strategic Planning Team for your service to the University and its future.

Progress in implementing our Strategic Plan (now the 2015 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 FY2015 Work Plan and the new activities selected for the coming year, the FY2016 Work Plan, are posted on the Strategic Planning webpage, to be found under the "About" section or by using the search function.

We will be asked to innovate, re-structure, re-invent, create, even as we work to assure our long-term health.

And we must protect our reputation. The University's Insurance Broker and the Risk Management Society recently conducted a national conditions. Let us proactively protect, guard, and enhance our reputation.

I encourage everyone's attention to all of these efforts and ideas.

Fiscal Matters

resources need greater and greater care and attention every year. We work with the University Planning and Budget Council to match

the appropriations for the State Universities. We conducted a University-wide process to establish our preliminary FY2016 budget. While come. We held an Open Budget Forum on March 3, outlining the role of the UPBC, the tentative budget cut assignments for each Vice Presidential area (primarily proportional with a small decrease for Academic Affairs), and a review by the UPBC in late spring. Each area conducted its own process and all the Vice Presidents hosted brown bag discussions across the University.

Provost held a Town Hall on April 21 to present the potential cuts, including instruction, in Academic Affairs. The weekly meetings

to UPBC on May 8. With no state appropriation yet, the Council forwarded the information to me without recommendation. In late appropriation. The preliminary FY2016 budget presented to and approved by the Board of Trustees at its June meeting contained cuts

eliminated. In the end, there were a dozen individuals who were laid off, with just over half being Civil Service staff, and the remainder A

The Governor vetoed the budget, as we all know. At this point we still lack an appropriation and have no indication of when we will have

We hope to double the number of scholarships, most of which are endowed, to 240, to include internships, mentoring, study abroad, student travel and research, co-curricular opportunities, and student housing scholarships. The initiative includes a wide variety of support to assist students in completing their academic goals.