The Promise of the Prairie: A vision for the future of University research

Strategic Advocacy • Value Creation • Creativity and Innovation

University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign • Chicago • Springfield
“The future of the Midwest region no longer depends on our factories and farms or a labor force possessing physical strength and determination, but limited skills and education. Nor will our region’s remarkable natural resources, our forests and fertile fields, our rivers and inland seas, determine our future. From here on out, our future depends on how well we develop our human resources and how we create and apply new knowledge through innovation and entrepreneurial zeal.”

“Business and industry have largely dismantled the large corporate research laboratories that drove American industrial leadership in the 20th century (e.g., Bell Labs), but have not yet fully partnered with research universities to fill the gap at a time when the new knowledge and ideas emerging from university research are needed by society more than ever.”

Conceptualizing

- Chairman Kennedy’s “Call to Arms” (Spring 2011)
- Governor's Innovation Council (Spring 2011)
- Chicago Council on Global Affairs (Spring 2011)
- OVPR BOT “American Research University” (Summer 2011)
- World Business Chicago Strategic Visioning (Spring 2012)
- OECD Tri-State Report (Spring 2012)
- NRC Report on American Research Universities (Spring 2012)
- 150th Anniversary of the Morrill Act (Summer 2012)
How does the UI lead “connecting the dots” between universities, government, and private sector to retain talent, support company formation (economic development) and community sustainability through innovation and creativity?
Focus on the **how** rather than the what

Open dialogue to identify opportunities, UI mission and addressing “How” with stakeholders and potential partners. Process of due diligence for operations and protecting core values. Beginning of a process (25 to 50 year horizon).
Visualizing

**UI INTERNAL**

- An inclusive **VEHICLE** for empowering people and ideas
- A **FUTURE** of increased competitiveness and enhanced sustainability
- A global **HUB** of innovation
- A global **COMMUNITY** of creative exchange
- A global **DESTINATION** where grand challenges are addressed
- A **PARTNERSHIP** of defined missions

**EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS**

- The **SYNERGY** of City, State, Federal Governments and UI
- The **CROSSROADS** of a diverse/dynamic creative community
- The **RESEARCH HUB** for applied innovations
- The **TRAINING GROUND** for next-generation thinkers
- The **MAGNET** for the world’s best talent
- The **LEADER** in computing and engineering excellence
Visualizing

Competitive Advantages & Core Competencies

“Daisy Model” by Bill Sanders
Realizing

Supporting the Mission - Protecting the Academy

University of Illinois (UIUC, UIC, UIS)

Affiliation Agreement with UI representation

UI Labs, Inc. 501(c)3 [Not-for-profit]

Attributes- providing empowerment, responsiveness, timeliness, agility and flexibility
Realizing

Defining the “What” and “Who”

Driven by opportunity, faculty-led initiatives & addressing grand challenges
Office of the Vice President for Research
Faculty Advisory Committee

Nick Burbules, UIUC, USC
Don Chambers, UIC
George Crabtree, UIC
Diane Harris, UIUC
John Martin, UIS
Robin Mermelstein, UIC
Dennis Ruez, UIS
Taher A. Saif, UIUC
Matt Wheeler, UIUC
UIUC Vision Committee
(Appointed by Chancellor’s Office)

- Ilesanmi Adesida, COE/ECE
- Irfan Ahmad, CNST/ABE
- Rashid Bashir, ECE/BioE/MNTL
- Michael Bragg, COE/AE
- Andreas Cangellaris, ECE
- Roy Campbell, CS
- Jennifer Eardley, DBS/OVCR
- Placid Ferreira, MechSE
- Marcelo Garcia, CEE
- William King, MechSE
- Jennifer Lewis, MatSE/FSMRL
- Robin Rutenbar, CS
- William Sanders, CS/CSL
- Andrew Singer, ECE/TEC
- Steve Sligar, MCB/Biochem
- Nancy Sottos, MatSE/Beckman
- KC Ting, ABE
- Bruce Vojak, COE
- Bryan White, Ani Sci/DBS/IGB
- Steven Zimmerman, Chem.
Daniel Burham, Chicago Architect/Planner
“Make no little plans”

Robert Easter, President UI
“Globally preeminent, locally relevant”