January 9, 2023

<u>Transforming Higher Education Implementation Task Force</u>
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Kelly Birky, Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning
Daniel Bodony, Grainger College of Engineering
Nicholas Burbules, College of Education
Brooke Elliott, Gies College of Business
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Jamie Hackett, Office of the Provost
John Hart, Office of Professional Education
Meghan Hazen, Office of the Registrar
Laura Hendley, Office of the Provost
Drew MacGregor, Technology Services
Randy McCarthy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Allen Renear, Office of the Provost
Katie Watson, Public Affairs

Dear Colleagues:

The Transforming Higher Education (THE) report identifies a vision for how the University of Illinois can better serve the state of Illinois and its diverse population by providing additional ways for non-traditional students to access the University's educational opportunities. Among other objectives, the report calls for the University to meet the needs of non-traditional students by creating non-degree offerings; developing alternative instructional delivery methods and innovative learning environments; partnering with external organizations; and providing more opportunities for non-traditional students to engage with the University.

To meet the goals identified in this report, the University must develop new capabilities; invest resources, and modify its organization, policies, and practices. This is a significant undertaking. To move the project forward, I am appointing a task force to provide high-level guidance to the project, and to coordinate unit-level activities necessary to execute specific actions related to the project.
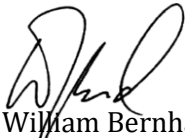
As a member of the task force, I ask you to address the following issues:

1. Share the Transforming Higher Education report with the university community and conduct a series of townhalls and college meetings to discuss the report and seek feedback.
2. Develop a project management plan, including major project elements, timeline, and milestones. Identify the sequence and prioritize the specific administrative actions necessary to advance the activities identified in the report.
3. Coordinate activities between offices and organizations that have responsibility for various aspects of the project. Identify opportunities for collaboration and cooperation to achieve project goals.

4. Identify issues that require resolution by other campus committees and authorities. Elevate those issues to the Office of the Provost, who can then refer them to the appropriate body.
5. Make recommendations on the appropriate administrative organization and resources necessary to implement the report while ensuring continued administrative capabilities to deliver on existing responsibilities. This evaluation should include consideration of the appropriate balance of responsibilities between central campus units and collegiate units as well as the most effective organization of central campus units associated with the effort.
6. Monitor the progress of the University toward the objectives in the report and report regularly to the Provost with recommendations.

As this is an ongoing project, I anticipate that the task force will perform its functions over the next year. The task force should provide a quarterly report detailing the University's progress and the task force's recommendations for next steps. We will re-evaluate membership on the task force at the conclusion of the spring semester.

Sincerely,

William Bernhard
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Provost