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Implementing Our Academic Plan

Last fall, we embarked on a planning process that involved reflecting on our purpose and envisioning our future. This process involved all of our stakeholders—faculty, students, deans, faculty senate, alumni, trustees, and co-op employers. Together we shaped and refined our ideas into a new [Mission Statement and Academic Plan](#) that will guide us in our endeavors ahead. On June 8, the plan was officially adopted by the Board of Trustees.

Our new mission statement reflects the vision of this Academic Plan and the core values of Northeastern:

To educate students for a life of fulfillment and accomplishment.
To create and translate knowledge to meet global and societal needs.

This mission statement will inspire our efforts in whatever we do—as scholars, as teachers, as mentors, and members of the Northeastern community.

Our commitment to excellence, distinctiveness, and innovation led us to identify five strategic themes that characterize our uniqueness:

Experiential Learning
Interdisciplinary and Translational Research
Intellectual Life and Creative Expression
Urban Engagement
Global Opportunities

By concentrating our efforts on these initiatives we will be better positioned to set priorities, make decisions, and focus resources that allow us to achieve our ambitions.

Drafting the plan and having it adopted are important accomplishments. I thank everyone who shared their ideas and engaged in the planning, particularly the people listed below who served on the steering committee, planning teams, and strategic partners advisory council. Now we must all set our minds to the task of implementing the plan. This will also be a community-wide effort—one that relies upon faculty, students, staff, alumni, trustees, and friends, as well as the various colleges, schools, and research centers. I look forward to working with you as we together bring this plan to life beginning with the Town Meeting on October 10.

Leading up to our Town Meeting, you will receive a series of briefs discussing the many other accomplishments we all made this past year—in faculty recruitment and research, enrollment, and financial health. These achievements are further testament to our ability to work together towards our common goal of excellence, and they position us well for what we set out to accomplish next.

Steering Committee

Chairs: Ahmed Abdelal, Mark Putnam

Lead Coordinator: Kay Onan

Staff Support: Donna Fitzpatrick

Team Chairs: Steve Zoloth, Emily Spieler, Urban & Global Dimensions; Jim Stellar, Sue Powers-Lee, Experiential Learning Dimensions; Ahmed Busnaina, Kim Lewis, Fundamental/Translational Research Dimensions; Bruce Ronkin, George Thrush, Creative, Aesthetic, and Ethical Dimensions

Team Members: Carol Glod, Chris Bosso, Steve Morrison, Hortensia Amaro, Rogan O'Handley, Simal Gaglani, Emily Spieler, Sue Powers-Lee, Kim Lewis, George Thrush, Jack Greene, Vin Lembo, Sam Solomon, Ed Klotzbier, Seamus Harreys, Marian Stanley, Donnie Perkins

Organizational Consultant: Ravi Sarathy

Writers/ Editors: Brian Kenny, Ann Comer

Planning Teams

Urban and Global Dimensions

Chairs: Steve Zoloth, Emily Spieler

Coordinator: Kathy Kottaridis

Staff Support: Susan Cromwell

Team Members: Daryl Hellman, Nikos Passas, Denis Sullivan, Bob Lowndes, Barry Bluestone, Sheila Puffer, Pat Plunkett, Scott Quint, Luis Falcon, Sergio Marrero, Suzan El-Rayess, Joan Fitzgerald

Experiential Learning

Chairs: Jim Stellar, Sue Powers-Lee

Coordinator: Scott Weighart

Staff support: Diane Hynes

Team Members: Stuart Peterfreund, Coleen Pantalone, Meredith Harris, Nancy Geoffrion, Chris Hopey, Ronné Turner, Rick Mickool, Mary Mello, Grace Yang, Emory Howell, James Rowan

Fundamental and Translational Research

Chairs: Ahmed Busnaina, Kim Lewis

Coordinator: Sara Wadia-Fascetti

Staff Support: John Hart

Team Members: Steve McKnight, Alain Karma, Tracy Robinson, Gordana Rabrenovic, Joanne Miller, Matthias Felleisen, Graham Jones, Sri Sridhar, Megan Alexander, Shane Lloyd, Bill Warger, Michael Silevitch, Laura Frader

Creative, Aesthetic, and Ethical Dimensions

Chairs: Bruce Ronkin, George Thrush

Coordinator: Ann McDonald

Staff Support: Christine Willis

Team Members: Susan Setta, Tony De Ritis, Mary Loeffelholz, Shelli Jankowski-Smith, Krystal L. Beaulieu, Allyson Savin

Strategic Partners Advisory Council

The Strategic Partners Advisory Council assisted the Steering Committee and Planning Teams throughout the planning process.

Members included:

Quincy Allen, BS'82, Vice President and President Xerox Production, Xerox Corporation

Edward Casale, Vice President, Enterprise Federal and CPE Field Operations, Verizon Partner Solutions

William (Bill) Conley, BSBA'90, Partner and Managing Director, Goldman Sachs & Co.

Mike Costello, Managing Partner, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, LLP New England

Richard D'Amore, BSBA'76, General Partner, North Bridge Venture Partners

Beverly Edgehill, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Partnership Inc.

Brian Gallagher, Senior Vice President, Engineering Development, EMC Corporation

Gary Gregg, MS'79, President, Agency Markets, Liberty Mutual Group

Peter Lynt, BS'83, Vice President, Integrated Operations, IBM

Ted MacLean, General Manager of the Northeast District, Microsoft Corporation

Joyce Plotkin, President, Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council

Peter Small, BS'81, President and CEO, Pyramis Global Advisors, Fidelity Investments

Dan Smith, President, Integrated Defense Systems, Raytheon Company

Robert Tarter, Executive Vice President, State Street Corporation

Frank Tempesta, BS'62, President, Textron Systems

Mark Vachon, BSBA'82, President and Chief Executive Officer, GE Healthcare

Lex Van der Ploeg, Vice President, Basic Research and Sitehead MRL Boston, Merck Research Laboratory

Michael (Mike) Wyzga, Executive Vice President and CFO, Genzyme Corporation

Michael Teitelbaum, Program Officer, Sloan Foundation

Paula Dressel, Vice President, JustPartners, Inc. Local and Regional Foundations

Paul Grogan, President, Boston Foundation

Penny Noyce, Trustee, Noyce Foundation

Klare Shaw, Program Officer, Barr Foundation

Jay Sherwin, JD'90, Program Officer, Nellie Mae Education Foundation

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