

North Central Regional Meeting

August 12, 2021

Participants: Tiffany Heng-Moss, Steve Neal, David Buchanan, Vikram Mistry, Mike White, Majed El-Dweik, Wendy Fink, Tara Westington

Wendy: Nominations request: The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine is undertaking an activity with a Blue Ribbon Panel to *identify key factors for successful outcomes of coordinated and collaborative projects of colleges and universities in the land-grant system, including those involving historically Black colleges and universities and other institutions* and to *recommend processes that land-grant schools can use to capture and share successes, outcomes, and impacts of joint projects*. The group is seeking nominations of individuals to serve that come from a variety of backgrounds. It is critical to have panel members who understand, and support, the LGU mission and structure. I encourage you to consider nominating LGU presidents, provosts, vice chancellors/vice presidents of agriculture, deans of colleges of agriculture and life sciences and key supporters with national experience in the following areas.

This activity will be carried out by a committee of approximately 10 volunteer experts in the fields of:

- administrative or policy leadership experience in higher education;
- administrative, policy, educational, or scientific leadership experience in agriculture and natural resources;
- experience in the organization and oversight of inter-institutional coordination and/or cooperative activities in research, education, and extension; and
- experience in institutional outreach, engagement, and development.

APS members are strongly encouraged to submit names of LGU individuals that can represent the breadth and diversity of the LGU system. You are not limited in the number of nominees you put forward. Please note too that NAS is also seeking to find nominees that reflect the populations LGUs serve and welcomes nominations of candidates from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, women, and early- and mid-career professionals. Nominations for committee members and/or reviewers for this activity will be due **by Wednesday, August 18, 2021**. More information can be found here: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6464705/Call-for-Nominations-Enhancing-Coordination-Between-Land-Grant-Universities-and-Colleges>

Agenda Topics:

- What's happening Fall 2021? Operations of individual offices? Student travel/field trips?
 - OSU will have 85% of classes conducted in-person beginning in the fall semester. The campus is planning on a back-to-normal scenario, but that could change at any moment. The university is considering a mask mandate. Faculty and staff have returned to office on August 2nd and will welcome students next week. There is some anxiety about teaching and students coming back to campus, so the university is considering a mask mandate. All students are required to have a negative COVID test before coming to campus. Unvaccinated students will be tested weekly. Faculty are not required to be vaccinated but are required to report test results weekly. More information can be found here: <https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/information/faculty-and-staff/testing/student-testing->

[program](#)

<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/teaching>

- SDSU staff have been back on campus since early July. Vaccinations are encouraged, but masks are optional. The university is planning for back-to-normal classes for the fall semester at full capacity in classrooms. Students will be coming back to campus next week with the option to move in early to avoid crowds. `
- NDSU has been experiencing smoke from wildfires in recent days. The campus is planning a return-to-normal for the fall semester and has set up for vaccinations. However, the policy on campus prohibits faculty & staff from asking others of their vaccination status. This has caused some concern for how classes will operate, and the language around this guideline.
- Lincoln University is like other universities, planning face-to-face but no mandatory mask mandates.
- UMN will be between 80-85% face-to-face instruction for the fall semester. Vaccination will be a requirement or weekly testing; face masks will be required indoors.
- Nebraska plan for 100% capacity; there is currently no city mandate (Lincoln) on face coverings. Students coming to campus must have a pre-screen COVID test before returning for the fall semester. Student travel for labs and field trips will be case by case basis to determine proper social distancing and health guidelines. Masks are currently encouraged on campus but are not required. Faculty and staff have been meeting around the clock monitoring and discussing the situation as it develops.
- What happens if a considerable number of students end up out with COVID? There appears to be mixed messaging on multiple campuses where the push is for as much "back-to-normal" functionality (not teaching on two platforms), but accommodations are expected as COVID interrupts students' ability to attend classes. This will be hard for the faculty to manage.
- Equity gaps for first generation students
 - It appears on different campuses that disproportionately, first generation and Pell-eligible students have suffered more retention losses due to the pandemic. Campuses are discussing how they will address these challenges. The loss of high touch face-to-face advising is thought to be some of the driver of this loss. Several campuses mentioned having "two freshmen" classes this year since last year's freshmen class was not really on campus much, if at all. OSU is trying to ameliorate some of the anxiety of the sophomore class by including them in activities that would normally be aimed only at freshmen. UNL is doing a lot of qualitative work around sophomores to better understand what is happening with these students.