**Young Professionals Focus Group**

**July 14, 2022**

**6 members**

1. **Who does UND serve, and do you think it is currently meeting those needs?**
* Students – UND has done an excellent job in preparing me (as a student) for workforce – but this could be enhanced
* Community – UND has good partnerships around GF, there is room to improve, with city of GF, small businesses, more frequent community and on-ramps to get involved with community – for students it can be difficult to get out of your shell as a student – socially and career sake – on-ramps – to seek out – more internships, more opportunities to do more social aspects within community
* Community aspect – GGFYP and UND students – in the past UND and Northland students had an active vote, bylaws were changed and they can’t vote, UND students can be members for free – social events, professional development and community events – they can attend, there is a GGFYP club on campus – club is resurrected and they are asked to attend board meetings
* Ads or finding people to take you out of your safe zone – people are scared to go out to different places, students don’t know how to use a bus so they stay on campus, need to connect the new student to peer (peer to peer)
* GGFYP – in the middle of strategic planning, had UND students in focus group, students talk about being in a “bubble” – need to get them into networking
1. **How do we enhance our campus environment in ways that makes it easier for outside stakeholders to partner, engage and collaborate with us?**
* Produce a directory so people know who to reach out to. Pancreatz Center is not the same as Career Services. We need an outreach person – 1 phone number to help
* UND App – students had a tough time finding events on and off campus. Students didn’t attend events, implement community calendar.
* UND has a lot of cool infrastructure and is there any welcoming or ribbon cutting for new buildings. We don’t really celebrate the new renovations. Community has not been part of the ribbon cutting or at least we don’t hear about it.
* Parking – on campus – to host events on campus, it is difficult. People get lost on campus.
* Have a welcome event for the community. How will parking be handled.
* Parking Ramp – is it free after 4:30 pm?
* Lack of transparency with parking signs – A lot and S lot – what does that mean. Clarity for visitors. Is there any free parking for visitors. People have to download an App. It is easier to meet with people off campus.
* Wellness parking – if you had residence parking, then you couldn’t park there—don’t know if this has changed
* Barrier is not sure where to go on campus
* Welcoming orientation – opportunity to welcome people to UND – give tours to the public, check it out – figure out where the events are – **Hold a Community Day**
* Partnerships and communicate with students – great way to get students involved – UND could do a better job at engaging recent Alumni – find more opportunities from the Alumni side – what kind of events young professionals can get involved in
* UND administration – very open and easy to talk to – Melonie Linder is our contact
* Help external entities connect within UND – have 1 person be the contact person – community outreach –
1. **How do we create a network of partnerships—within the UND community, the local community, the state, and/or the nation—that contributes in measurable and significant ways to the development and advancement of North Dakota?**
* Perspectives of young professionals, work with UND to have events on the campus. Challenge is that YP group is exteWhat wournal and there is a charge. We have a student organization within campus, so YP didn’t have to pay a rent.
* Wellness Center – they also charge for external constituents. More community access and simpler ties.
* Allow representatives to sit on University committee, boards – reserve a spot to make sure voices are heard from the community and various groups. Lunch and learns are sponsored by YP. We are running out of different meeting rooms – to show off the board rooms – 20 people. Free space and free parking. Students may be more apt to then participate in off-campus events if they meet people. We have utilized Center for Innovation and Gorecki. We would like to do something in the middle of campus but again parking may be an issue.
1. **How do we grow relationships with business, industry, and governmental partners to generate experiential learning and research opportunities for our students?**
* Is UND using industry advisory boards in the best way? Are advisory boards providing input into the curriculum. Ensure all of UND’s curriculum is updated. Don’t teach outdated technology (computer science?). Take a look at each curriculum.
* Need a more dedicated face to get out into local businesses – for setting up internships. There is a problem that there aren’t enough local internships. Students have to go outside of Grand Forks for internships. Why? Is the problem that businesses don’t know how to set them up. No one knows that Handshake exists. Businesses may not feel that Handshake is worth filling it out-too much work. Need to connect the employers with UND students.
1. **What would be your vision for UND’s future? Do you have any ‘big dreams’ for the institution?**
* Beat NDSU at football
* Love to see UND have a robust, engaging students sin their field very early on. First year experience – direct engagement very early on – not just with academic curriculum, integrated on career services, with Riipen, come out of college with internships and prepared for the workforce
* Show off the UAS, show off the tech to community, Space Force, showcase it for the community, partnership with GF Air Force, even within the College of Education – new technologies, Medical School – simulators, show off planetarium
* Robust mentorship program – for younger students in industry – older student letting younger students – follow Pancreatz mentoring program – expand throughout campus – start students in job shadow within their freshman year – helped figure out what I wanted to do –
* Strong programs should lift up other programs within UND, when you show off the programs, students recognize they are part of a great institution, that it is not just a public institution
* Focus help integrate within the community – integrated studies – same students all day – we did field trips, more events to get into the community – more events taking place organizing with the community
* There is a lack of opportunity with civic engagement, students need more structured events, prior to the pandemic, there was more engagement – in person community
* Mental health is an issue
* 12-15 age group – people want to leave GF, there is nothing fun or things to do with this age group – buy into stay with GF and the state
* Young Attorneys – retirements are coming, keep graduates local
* Build partnerships across the Red River Valley – law firm in Hallock as an example

**How can we make UND a magnet for students?**

* relationship-based is important – build relationships rather than just looking at recruitment
* More intentional relationship building, more face-to-face interaction within businesses, UND needs to reach out more to community, community reaches out to UND and it needs to be both ways
* Staff should be out more and get involved in community events (Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours) – I am UND and I am here!
* Be a face of UND – ex) – Adrian with Alerus