

The Student Voice

Subject: Strengths to Build On

Listening Session: 3/9/2021

Prompt 1: What are your favorite things about NDSU?

Answers to this prompt covered the full NDSU experience. Knowledgeable instructors, the variety of academic resources available, and research opportunities for undergraduates were brought forward in relation to learning. The affordability NDSU provides, and the balance achieved by being a larger school with the feel of a smaller campus were both appreciated.

Other answers centered on the people and community that provide the full campus experience. "Bison pride is evident when you walk on campus." There are good resources and an attitude for helping. They cited support for student organizations, the ability to attend athletic and other events at no cost. Specific shout outs went to RHA (Residence Hall Association), CA (Campus Attractions), and the Wellness Center for providing fun, accessible events on campus.

Prompt 2: What are NDSU's biggest strengths and opportunities?

General strengths include student involvement, new academic programs, scholarships/financial aid, reciprocity for Minnesota students, and academic resources. Specific strengths mentioned included Welcome Week, career fairs, the Career & Advising Center, a strong alumni network, connections to local companies and firms, updated/new buildings, the MATBUS partnership, and campus living options.

Opportunities included expanding diversity and inclusion awareness, and making sure opportunities are equitable and available to all students on campus.

Prompt 3: In times of declining budgets, what areas should be protected from cuts?

Several themes came through in organizational answers. They believe NDSU should protect resources for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and students of color, scholarships and grants for students, student support resources, research funding, campus employment for students, access/advancements to technology in any field, funding for faculty, funding for student organizations, the Career & Advising Center, and student health. Essentially: student resources.

Prompt 4: What small investments at NDSU in people, programs, or places would make this a better place to be?

One area that was brought forward more than once was a more cohesive academic advising program, particularly for non-traditional students such as those who are transferring in or took a gap year. Students also understand the importance of making sure faculty have the resources they need to effectively teach.

In terms of campus life, additional funding for student organizations in general, student organizations meant to support underrepresented students, and the Office of Multicultural Programs would be seen as high impact investments. Incentives for the creation of new student organizations was also discussed. Increasing the number of community-based events during the winter and increasing the number of healthy alternatives in the dining centers were also mentioned as small investments to improve the campus experience.