Theme 1: Student Achievement and Attainment

Issue A: Like other open-admission institutions, UA's graduation rates are lower than those of selective institutions. UA students on average take longer to complete degrees than students at peer institutions.

Effect: Full-time baccalaureate degree-seeking students graduate in four to five years at rates competitive with those at our established peer institutions. Full-time associate degree-seeking students graduate in two to three years at rates competitive with those at peer institutions. Part-time students complete their degrees in proportionate time frames. The three universities will ensure that academic standards are rigorously maintained.

Issue B: Like those of many large and complex institutions, UA processes and procedures can be challenging for students to navigate.

Effect: Students experience UA as accessible, efficient and transparent in all areas.

Issue C: UA students must demonstrate skills and knowledge in their particular majors. In all aspects of their UA educational experience, students also must develop critical thinking skills, good judgment, high ethical standards and an understanding of diversity to be responsible citizens and leaders.

Effect: Students take responsibility for meeting their educational objectives, and both students and graduates demonstrate personal, community and civic responsibility, high ethical standards and respect for others.

Issue D: UA needs to increase national and international recognition of its quality education, programs of distinction and exceptional research in order to enhance recruitment of undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.

Effect: UA's reputation for academic quality, programs of distinction and research makes it an attractive, highly competitive choice for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.

Issue E: UA recruitment, retention and graduation rates are low, especially for disadvantaged and minority populations and for Alaska Natives.

Effect: UA graduates reflect the diversity of Alaska.

Issue F: Alaska has serious unmet needs for advanced degree graduates, and UA has opportunities to meet those needs both internally and through partnerships with other institutions.

Effect: Alaskans have more opportunities to earn advanced degrees and more advanced degrees are earned at UA, especially those that fulfill Alaska's specific needs.

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