

Sept. 12, 2019

What is the name of the assessment?

UNH Financial Review and Resource Assessment

Why are we conducting this assessment?

One of our four strategic priorities is to build financial strength. UNH seeks to be a national leader in financial management and aligning its budget and resources with its strategic priorities.

What is the goal of the assessment?

The goal of this effort is to make sure we are pursuing promising revenue opportunities and that we are using our limited financial resources as effectively as possible.

How will this assessment help our students?

We want UNH to be more accessible and affordable for students by diversifying revenue sources and doing the best we can in managing our expenses. At the same time, we want to identify resources to invest strategically to meet our overarching aspiration of being a top 25 public university on the most important measures of academic performance.

Who will conduct the assessment?

A key initiative to build financial strength requires us to conduct a comprehensive assessment of our financials. Toward that end, UNH has hired Huron to work with us this fall semester to conduct an in-depth assessment including revenues and costs across all academic and administrative areas at the university.

Why Huron?

Huron was selected to perform this work because of their extensive experience doing similar work at over 100 other colleges and universities. It is also worth noting that Huron has previously worked for UNH and the University System.

What approach will Huron take to conduct the assessment?

Huron has conducted comprehensive financial assessments at more than 100 institutions. As an external entity, Huron does not have pre-conceived ideas that the assessment will generate. They will begin the process by interviewing approximately 100 members of the UNH community, review university policies, and conduct a comprehensive analysis of financial, administrative, and academic data.

How much will the assessment cost?

The contract with Huron is significant at \$600,000. Given our limited resources, we gave careful consideration to whether we should spend this amount of money. After consulting with members of the board of trustees, members of our senior administration and several alumni who have been involved in similar financial reviews, we came to the conclusion that this investment is critical for UNH at this time.

What could UNH expect from this investment?

Based on Huron's work with other universities, we anticipate that UNH could realize benefits greater than \$12 million or approximately 2% of our operating budget over the next two years as a result of their work and implementation of their recommendations. In short, we are confident that this will be a very good return on investment.

How will UNH invest resources identified in the assessment?

Ultimately, this effort will allow us to make important investments in teaching, research and infrastructure while making UNH as affordable and accessible as possible for students.

How long should we expect the assessment to last?

Huron's work began on September 9 and we will receive their report and recommendations by mid-December. We will keep the university community informed as the work unfolds this semester. Please check this page for updates <https://www.unh.edu/main/future-of-unh/financial-strength>.

Will this assessment review RCM?

No. However, the results and recommendations of this assessment will help inform a RCM review that we will conduct in the spring semester of 2020.

Will there be a Steering Committee?

Yes. The University has established a steering committee of students, staff and faculty to guide the scope and depth of the analysis, provide university-wide insights and perspectives, evaluate the findings, and oversee the development of a summary report. In addition to the Steering Committee, Huron will also be meeting with the Dean's Council, President's Leadership Council, Academic Standards Advising Committee, Faculty Senate and Budgeting and Financial Planning Group.

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Who will be serving on the Steering Committee?

The Steering Committee will consist of four teams focused on executive activities, revenues and expenses, academic program costs, and data support

Executive Team

- Wayne Jones, Provost
- Chris Clement, COO
- Cathy Provencher, Interim CFO
- P. Vasudevan, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Bill Poirier, CIO
- Debbie Dutton, VP for Advancement
- Scott Olinger, Faculty Senate, COLSA

Revenue and Expense Team

- Deborah Merrill-Sands, Paul
- Louise Griffin, Research
- Amy Wack, BSC
- David May, OBA
- Betty Schmidt, OS Rep
- Alexandra Padilla, Grad Student

Academic Program Costs Team

- Michelle Dillon, COLA
- Sarah Connor, Provost office
- David Matta, BSC
- Anne Broussard, HHS and ASAC
- Karen Graham, CEPS
- Ethan McClanahan, undergraduate

Data Support Team

- Kerry Scala
- Jackie Snow