Global Solutions

INTRODUCTION TO THE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS TASK FORCE PROPOSAL

We, the members of this task force, offer below goals, objectives, and key performance indicators under the heading of Global Solutions. We also wish to stress an important point: these goals are meant to transform our university and not merely be a list of things to do.

This transformation would give our University a sharp focus that would achieve the following:

- Serve students so they are prepared to be leaders in their professions and communities.

- Amplify our traditional mission and strengths in positive ways that will magnify our future impact, both inside and outside higher education.

- Lower the walls between academic disciplines and between academic and nonacademic employees, which in turn will create a dynamic crucible for teaching, learning, and service to each other and the world.

- Differentiate our University from competitors for students and for financial and political support.

- Build an engaging, truthful, and coherent story that will be told to prospective and current students, alumni/ae, donors, and other friends of the University.

In short, this proposal would help us build a vibrant, distinctive, and distinguished future for Minnesota State University, Mankato.

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GLOBAL SOLUTIONS
-- Definition and Goals --

Definition

Global Solutions brings committed people together to produce relevant and integrated answers to local, national, and international problems.

Goals

1. Global Solutions Thinking
   We envision the university as a problem-solving engine without internal or global boundaries.

2. Global Solutions Learning
   We will build creative, engaged problem-solvers through collaborative and immersive experiences in the local, state, and global communities.

3. Global Solutions Interacting
   We will communicate, collaborate, and partner internally and externally to identify, pursue, and promote global solutions.

4. Global Solutions Honoring
   We will support and honor those who generate relevant and integrated responses to local, national, and international problems.

5. Global Solutions Supporting
   We will allocate funding and staffing resources to support Global Solutions.
GLOBAL SOLUTIONS
-- Objectives --

1. **Think.** Envision the university as a problem-solving engine without internal or global boundaries.
   
   A. **GSThinking.** Promote "GSThinking" at Minnesota State Mankato by initiating new campus conversations and ongoing campus dialogues in the following ways:
      
      i. In August 2010, the GSThinking goal will be the focus of an exercise during the Administrative Retreat.
      
      ii. Use Convocation in August 2010 as an opportunity to kick off the Global Solutions initiatives and other strategic priorities.
      
      iii. In September 2010, a subcommittee of the Global Solutions Task Force members will meet with different bargaining groups as well as MSSA to explain the GSThinking initiative, invite their input into the process, and solicit an opportunity to conduct a forum with individual or collective groups as appropriate. This will be followed by:

         a. During AY 2010-11, hold forums dedicated to the Global Solutions Thinking initiative with bargaining units and divisional groups. Assess attendees.

         b. During AY 2010-11, hold two open, public forums for all interested faculty, staff, and students dedicated to the Global Solutions Thinking initiative. Assess attendees.

      iv. By Spring 2011, initiate a *Global Solutions Lecture Series* featuring members of our faculty and staff and outside thinkers on topics related to Global Solutions.

   B. **Social Media.** By April 2011, the university will use social networking sites (e.g. Twitter, Facebook) to promote the GSThinking initiative.
2. **Learn.** Build creative, engaged problem solvers through collaborative and immersive experiences in the local, state, and global communities.

   A. **Co-curriculum.** By November 2010, a cross divisional work team will be formed that includes representatives from Diversity, Student Affairs, and other areas as appropriate to create a long-range plan for integrating GS initiatives with co-curricular learning experiences.

   B. **Partnerships.** By December 2010, develop internal and external partnerships to identify issues and problems in need of Global Solutions (e.g., by December 2010, meet with 25 area businesses and organizations to identify possible needs or solutions which will result in a minimum of two partnerships; by December 2010, the Regional Science Fair will collaborate with at least four departments and organizations on and off campus not currently participating to present a unified university+community experience).

   C. **Honors Program.** By December 2010, develop collaborative models that focus on cross-disciplinary competencies through the Honors program.

   D. **Workshops.** By December 2010, GS Task Force Members in partnership with GS Leaders will develop a workshop for collaborative teaching and learning, to be offered at the January 2011 Professional Development Day.

   E. **Incubator.** By May 2011, create an incubator program to work with at least four faculty members to encourage collaborative teaching and research.

   F. **Internships.** By May 2011, create at least five new internship opportunities, to be continued in subsequent years with the addition of five new opportunities per college per year for the duration of this planning cycle, for students by working with area communities, businesses and industries that target development consistent with the spirit of Global Solutions. Also, recruit at least two new out-of-state internship, apprenticeship, clinical, or co-op sites per college per year for global opportunities.
G. **Interdisciplinary Programs.** By May 2011, launch a program which is developed out of a collaboration of at least three different academic departments.

   1. **Reach Area Youth.** One possible topic might be how to “Reach Area Youth” to develop self-esteem, a sense of purpose, and develop critical thinking skills to be problem-solving and caring individuals in the community.

   2. **Youth Institute.** Another possible collaboration is by Fall 2011 to establish an Institute for Childhood and Youth Studies that draws on intellectual resources across the campus.

H. **Disaster Response.** By June 2011, set up a task force to identify and marshaling University resources and competencies to plan a response strategy to global, national, state and local disasters.

I. **Curriculum.** Through May 2014, use an RFP process to support at least one existing program per college per year with curricular enhancements that reflect a Global Solutions emphasis.

J. **URC.** By 2015, every MSU student will have the opportunity to take a “big idea” or problem facing the world and apply solutions-oriented research to it, and an opportunity to present those results at the Undergraduate Research Conference, through Service Learning experiences, or other appropriate venues.

K. **Redesign.** By December 2010, the university will provide ideas, forums, and resources for faculty members to redesign academic curricula and courses in ways that improve student performance and satisfaction and increase flexibility in faculty load and opportunities for faculty research and creativity activity. Although there may be innovations nationally and internationally that we might emulate, ultimately this will be discipline- and department-based innovation. Programs for non-academic redesign will also be deployed when appropriate.
3. **Interact.** Communicate, collaborate, and partner internally and externally to identify, pursue, and promote global solutions.

A. **GS Audit.** The GS Think Tank will annually audit the number and depth of Global Solutions partnerships across the University, supporting and recognizing units that achieve at each level. The audit rubric will include the following levels, with Level III being the desired level:
   
i. **Level I** (lowest level) – Simple transactions between internal and/or external partners; or other simple relationships that bridge “silos.”
   
ii. **Level II** (middle level) – Pooled resource collaborations and collaborative program design between internal and/or external partners; or other robust relationships that eliminate silos.
   
iii. **Level III** (highest level) – Pooled resource collaborations and collaborative program design between internal and/or external partners focused on Global Solutions goals and objectives; or other robust relationships that eliminate silos and involve significant international activity.

B. **Baseline.** By December 2010, inventory current Global Solutions activities to establish a baseline.

C. **Modeling and Simulation.** By October 2010, formally establish a *Modeling and Simulation Center* to do applied research for government, industry, education, health care, and the environment. Seed funding will be from internal grants and external appropriations. Within five years, the Center will be completely self-supporting.

D. **Center for Collaboration.** By May 2011, establish a *Center for Collaboration* funded by Federal and State grants as a pilot program for all MnSCU schools as well as other interested universities, colleges and schools.

E. **Academic Alliance.** By May 2011, create a *GS Academic Alliance* with all area schools, K-12, and higher education.

F. **Accelerator.** By May 2011, create a *Global Solution Accelerator* that provides resources in support of those who champion Global Solutions.
The Accelerator will be established based on the following information gathering:

i. By November 2010, each division will conduct a needs assessment related to their respective work and how it interfaces with solution driven projects for local, state, regional, national, or international problems.

ii. By January 2011, each division will engage in one or more “GS think tank sessions” related to potential partnerships that could lead to a formalized collaboration related to global solutions work.

iii. By April 2011, each division will form a new partnership that will focus on an initiative centered on Global Solutions work.

iv. By September 2011, form a campus-wide GS Think Tank with participation of the GS Leaders that builds on the divisional conversations and partnerships in objectives 3.e.ii. and 3.e.iii.

G. Study Abroad. Through 2014, increase the number of study abroad students each successive year by 15%.

H. International Students. Through 2014, increase the number of international students each successive year by 10% based on new international recruitment initiatives.

I. International Partnerships. By 2014, double the number of international partnerships based on new international partnership initiatives.

J. Admissions. By October 2011, every applicant for undergraduate admissions will be expected to write an essay on the following theme or something similar: “Describe a problem facing the world today and some solutions that could be applied to solving it.”
4. **Honor.** Support and honor those who produce relevant and integrated answers to local, national, and international problems.

   A. **Recognitions.** By April 2011, codify specific rituals, events, and recognitions that support and honor those faculty, staff, and students participating in *GSThinking*.

   B. **Leaders.** By December 2010, identify 24 *Global Solutions Leaders*, to include 8 faculty, 8 staff, and 8 student leaders, who will serve as individual and exclusive mentors for potential Global Solutions problem solvers.
5. **Support.** Allocate funding and staffing to support Global Solutions.

A. **HR Processes.** Beginning July 2010, the University will begin hiring faculty and staff who are passionate ambassadors of Global Solutions type work. Specifically, job postings will include relevant preferred qualifications that seek candidates who support GSThinking, e.g.:

   “Demonstrated commitment to pedagogy and research that produces relevant and integrated answers to local, national, and international problems.”

B. **Campaign.** By June 2015, the Global Solutions comprehensive campaign will have generated substantial private support for Minnesota State University, Mankato, to position our university as the Big Ideas, Real World Thinking institution of higher education in our Nation.

C. **Applied Research.** Through **2014**, increase the number of applied research dollars raised annually through RASP by **20%** each year.

D. **Initiative Fund.** By Spring 2011, establish a dedicated Global Solutions Initiative Fund to support grass-roots Global Solutions initiatives through an RFP process.
GLOBAL SOLUTIONS
-- Key Performance Indicators --

1. Number of Level III GS Collaborations .......................... Objective 3.a.
2. Number of Honors students ............................................ Objective 2.c.
3. Number of Study Abroad students .................................. Objective 3.g.
4. Number of International students ................................. Objective 3.h.
5. Number of clients in the GS Accelerator ........................ Objective 3.e.
6. Number of changes through the Academic Redesign Process .... Objective 2.l.
7. Number of URC participants ......................................... Objective 2.k.
8. Dollars to the Center for Modeling and Simulation .............. Objective 3.c.
9. Dollars to the Comprehensive Campaign .......................... Objective 5.b.
10. Dollars through RASP to Applied Research ...................... Objective 5.c.