

IOWA

Student Success Team Meeting

February 10, 2026

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Overview
- Office of Writing and Communication – Danielle Wheeler, Lauren Haldeman, and Marc Falk
- Cancer Research, Education, Impact, and Patient Care SPARC – Mike Weaver
- Brain Science and Mental Health SPARC – Sarah Hansen and Shaun Vecera
- Small Group Activity
- Closing

UI Strategic Plan Structure

- Strategic Plan Action Resource Committee (SPARC)
 - Create and carry out a fluid implementation of the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.
- Revenue and Efficiencies Strategic Plan Action and Resource Committee (reSPARC)
 - Identify opportunities for increasing revenue and improving operational efficiency to ensure the long-term financial success of the University of Iowa.

Areas of Distinction

“What makes the University of Iowa distinctive?”

- Writing and Communication
- Brain Science and Mental Health
- Cancer Research, Education, Impact, and Patient Care

These three focus areas highlight the power of interdisciplinary collaboration that exists on campus.

IOWA

Office of Writing & Communication

Danielle Wheeler, Lauren Haldeman, and Marc Falk

February SST Meeting

IOWA

IOWA

Cancer Research, Education, Impact, and Patient Care SPARC

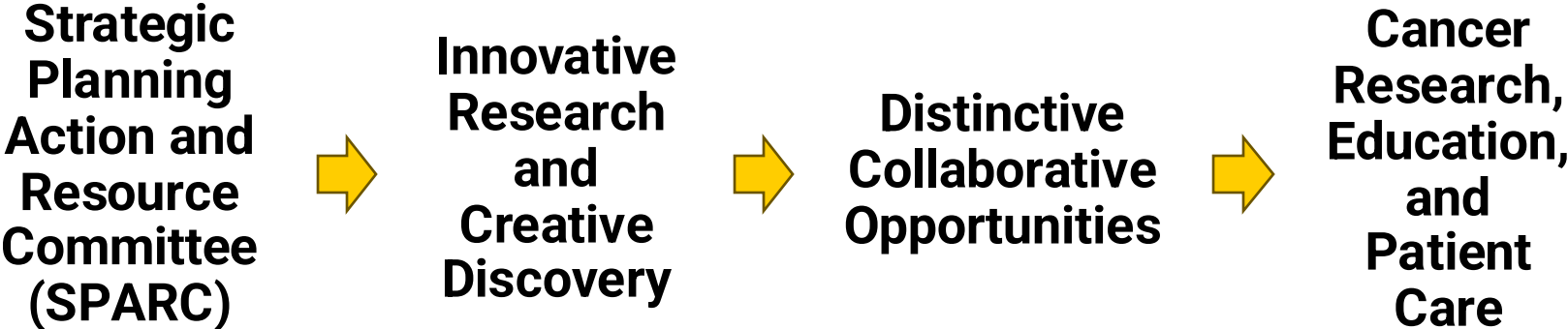
Mike Weaver

February SST Meeting

Background

Strategic Planning Action and Resource Committee (SPARC)

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA 2022-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN



<https://now.uiowa.edu/news/2024/09/ui-identifies-3-distinctive-areas-excellence-campus-collaboration>

Co-Chairs & Charge

- **Edith Parker**, DrPH, MPH – Dean, College of Public Health
- **Mark Burkard**, MD, PhD – Professor of Internal Medicine-Hematology, Oncology and Blood and Marrow Transplantation, Director, Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Charge:** The workgroup is charged with advancing the university's strategic priorities by strengthening cancer research, education, impact, and patient care. Working collaboratively with colleges and central units, the workgroup will seek campuswide input to identify shared goals, resource needs, and opportunities that align with the strategic plan while implementing strategies that elevate interdisciplinary collaboration, accelerate innovative cancer research, enhance educational quality, expand service and national impact, and integrate discoveries into improved patient care.

Membership

- **Sandra Daack-Hirsch**, PhD, RN, FAAN – Professor and Executive Associate Dean, College of Nursing
- **Jill Kolesar**, PharmD, MS, FCCP – Dean, Professor, and Jean M. Schmidt Chair in Drug Discovery, College of Pharmacy
- **Susan Lutgendorf**, PhD – Dewey B. Stuit Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, CLAS
- **Sarah Russett**, Executive Director of Development for the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa Center for Advancement
- **Clark Stanford**, DDS, PhD, MHA – Dean and Professor, College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics
- **Mark Vander Weg**, PhD – Professor and Chair, Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health
- **Joshua Wilda**, MPA – Associate Vice President for Information Systems, Chief Information Digital Officer, UIHC

Cancer Prevention, Control, and Survivorship

- **Mark Vander Weg (lead)**, PhD – Professor and Chair, Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health
- **Susan Lutgendorf (co-lead)**, PhD – Dewey B. Stuit Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, CLAS
- **Jessica Gorzelitz**, PhD – Assistant Professor of Health, Sport, and Human Physiology, CLAS
- **Sneha Phadke**, DO – Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine-Hematology, Oncology, and Blood and Marrow Transplantation
- **Aaron Seaman**, PhD – Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, CCOM, Assistant Professor, Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College of Public Health
- **Stephanie White**, PhD, RN, FAAN – Associate Professor, PhD Program Director, College of Nursing

Cancer Prevention, Control, and Survivorship, cont.

- **Develop and implement a statewide cancer survivorship program**
 - Survivorship database
 - Mental health and well being of cancer patients
 - Educational programs
 - Nutrition and fitness

- **Exercise Oncology Clinic**
 - P3 approved for FY26
 - In-person and telehealth exercise programs for cancer survivors
 - Clinical research hub with hands-on learning experiences for students in exercise science, health professions, and oncology

Drug Discovery and Development

- **Jill Kolesar (lead)**, PharmD, MS, FCCP – Dean, Professor, and Jean M. Schmidt Chair in Drug Discovery, College of Pharmacy
- **P3 Request Approved:** “Developing an NIH Training Grant application (T32) in Cancer Drug Discovery and Development”
 - **18-month project** to develop a full T32 proposal that will leverage unique strengths at Iowa including HCCC, Pharmacy, CCOM, CLAS, ICTS, and UIP, educating trainees in developing novel cancer therapeutics from discovery to development, to clinical trials.
 - **T32 will provide opportunities for PhD, MD/PhD, and senior trainees.**
- **College of Pharmacy 6th Floor Buildout**
 - Funding secured to complete ~20,000 ft² laboratory space (P3, Pharmacy, CCOM)
 - Planned future home of Institute for Cancer Drug Discovery and Development

Other Priorities

- **Informatics, Genomics, and Artificial Intelligence**

- FY22, FY25 P3 “[Iowa Health Data Resource](#)”
- UIHC Chief Information Digital Officer transition

- **Rural Care Delivery**

- **Additional P3 Cancer Projects:**

- FY25 - “Identifying Key Drivers of Cancer in Iowa” - This project strengthens a partnership between the State of Iowa and the University of Iowa to better understand Iowa's high cancer incidence rate, with the goal of reducing cancer rates and improving outcomes across the state.
- FY24 - “Reducing the Impact of Lung Cancer Among Iowans Through Prevention and Early Detection” - This project focuses on community-based cancer research to inform a multi-level strategy for implementing high-value cancer screening, tobacco-use interventions, and radon control activities to prevent and detect lung cancer in the state of Iowa.
- FY23 - “Midwest FLASH Lab” - Developing Next-Generation Radiotherapy Delivery and Expertise at UI.
- FY23 - “Redox Regulation of Immunological Responses During Cancer Therapy”
- FY21 - “NCI/NIDCR P50: Multidisciplinary approach to oral cancer etiology and treatment”

IOWA

IOWA

Brain Science and Mental Health SPARC

Sarah Hansen and Shaun Vecera

February SST Meeting

Brain Science & Mental Health

- Led by: Dr. Ted Abel, Director, Iowa Neuroscience Institute and Sarah Hansen, VP, Student Life
- Core Team: Dean Clark Stanford (Dentistry), Dr. Michael Fletcher (UCS), Dr. Jake Michaelson (Psychiatry), Dr. Ana Rodriguez Rodriguez (Graduate College), Dr. Shaun Vecera (Psych & Brain Sciences), Angela Greenwald (UICA), Dr. Martin Kivlighan (Education), Dr. Diane Rohlman (CPH), Dr. Alexander Bassuk (Pediatrics), Dr. Beth Livingston (Tippie), Matt Kuster (UICA), Dr. Marie Adams (UCS)
- Three work groups with additional members

Brain Science & Mental Health, cont.

- Focus Areas:
- Combine existing strengths in direct service delivery with cutting edge research innovations
- Address campus early intervention and supportive environment needs in innovative ways
- Create projects that benefit UI and provide value to the state

Work Group Projects

- Recovery-Friendly Workplaces: Rohlman and Livingston
 - Collaborating with the Health & Well-Being SPARC on achieving UI certification as a Recovery Friendly Workplace (US Department of Labor)
 - Evaluate policies and outcomes and share lessons and practices with largest state employers to create an Iowa RFW certification

A “Recovery Friendly Workplace” (RFW) is a place of work in which the employer, in collaboration with employees, establishes, maintains, and continually enhances policies, practices, and a culture and work environment that are supportive of current and prospective employees in recovery from, or otherwise affected by, substance use disorders.

Work Group Projects, cont.

- Suicide Prevention: Adams, Fletcher, Michaelson
Invited to submit full P3 proposal
- Use Michaelson's research to create a mobile app
screening (8 minutes)
- Screening catches processing delays that self-report
questionnaires may miss
- Offers objective risk
screening while potentially
reducing stigma



Work Group Projects, cont.

→ Uncertainty and Mental Health: Vecera & Petkov

- Investigate how cognitive control and intolerance to uncertainty contribute to student challenges across campus.
- Support training grant development by integrating psychological and brain science perspectives into student support initiatives.
- Explore assessment strategies beyond clinical populations to capture broader undergraduate experiences.
- Develop strategies to identify students struggling with uncertainty and apply evidence-based interventions.

IOWA

IOWA

Small Group Activity

Small Group Activity Directions Part 1

- Generate ideas for partnership and/or ideas that strengthen or expand efforts for each area of distinction.
- Write each idea on a small sticky note—one idea per note.
- When ready, place your sticky notes on the corresponding large poster sheets on the walls.

Small Group Activity Directions Part 2

- Move around the room to review ideas posted by others.
- Add new ideas where you see gaps, opportunities, or connections.
- Use a sticker or mark to “like” any ideas you find exciting, impactful, or worth exploring.

IOWA