The simplest description of the YSU Strategic Planning process is the following:

- *Planning the planning process*-spring/summer 2018-formation of the Strategic Planning Organization Team (SPOT)
 - SPOT determines the approach to optimize faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the communities' willingness to embrace and activate the next Plan
- Planning-2018-2019 academic year
 - Develop a process that involves the campus community, creates buy-in, and a willingness to live the Plan
- Planning to do the Plan-summer 2019 and the 2019-2020 academic year
 - The Board endorses the Strategic Plan and a budget that optimizes current resources and possible investment with strategic priorities
- Implementing the Plan-fall 2020 and beyond
 - Annual cycles optimizing the use of current resources and possible investment pursuing Strategic Plan initiatives

SPOT has determined a successful strategic planning process should include the following attributes:

- Presidential and Board of Trustees guidance
- Thought provoking presentations and conversations with prominent higher education thought- leaders and provokers
- SPOT becomes educated about YSU's realities in the higher education market-place including conversations regarding enrollment, employers, community, finance, compliance, etc.
- Input into the planning process via a constituency-based survey
- Campus-wide conversations linked to actionable outcomes related to student success
- Regular communications with campus on the progress of the plan
- Optimization of the resource allocation to academic and institution-wide support areas
- Implementation of the Plan based upon clearly defined outcomes linked to the strategic allocation of resources
- These processes are repeated annually representing a continuous quality improvement process

For such a transformation to occur, the following will need to be developed:

- A campus-wide understanding of the current and future financial model for progress and success
- A campus-wide understanding of the processes associated with the reallocation of resources that is predicated upon the allocation of any additional resources

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- An annual budgeting process that is transparent and clearly understood because of a robustly developed set of feed-back loops
- An understanding of how student success, research productivity and multidisciplinary collaboration plays an essential role in YSU's future vitality
- An increased sense of trust and mutual respect between faculty, administration, and staff via increased collaboration in shared governance and responsibility