Recommendations for Greater Efficiency
Campuses offered several recommendations to improve efficiency:

- **NC A&T** noted the need for local modifications to the use of BANNER and the development of new institutional databases needed to carry out and monitor success of campus initiatives in response to UNC Tomorrow.
- **NCSSM** recommends inter-institutional collaborations that achieve economies-of-scale cost savings in the following ways: (1) provide health plan options for NCSSM students (as part of the student health plan options of UNC) ; (2) leverage buying power of UNC to improve quality and reduce cost of Food Service; and (3) leverage buying power of UNC to reduce cost of digital library resources.
- **UNCA** noted that outdated State regulations regarding the building and renovation of state property limit the choices a campus can make as sustainable and/or green construction options tend to have higher up front costs (despite the longer-term efficiencies); limited capital resources and significant repair and renovation backlogs delay improvements to facility efficiency.
- **UNC-CH** noted several barriers to greater efficiency, including the State Personnel Act and many financial, operational, property and purchasing regulations.
- **WCU** recommends that the President's Council on P.A.C.E. reviews alternative public budgeting strategies that reduce audit exceptions, reduce overhead, and simplify the budgeting process; implement Ernst & Young recommendations for improved business processes.

II. Facilitating Inter-institutional Collaborations (5.7)

Campuses reported numerous examples of inter-institutional collaborations from joint degree programs to 2+2 programs with Community Colleges to joint research programs to shared library resources to collaborations with business, industry, other private sector entities and government.

One innovative proposal for a new collaboration was offered by UNC Charlotte to create a *NanoNetwork for Statewide Collaboration between UNC institutions involved in nanotechnology and nanoscience* including NC State, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Charlotte, and UNC Greensboro to facilitate collaborative use of research equipment, facilitate collaborative research, showcase collective nanotechnology innovations, explore distance education opportunities, and launch a coordinate nanotechnology oriented website.

UNC-Chapel Hill reported that it is planning to expand its existing seed and bridge funding program from $50,000 to $2 million over the next two years to further stimulate collaborative research by faculty. The campus noted the difficulty of dividing facilities and administrative (F&A) receipts equitably when multiple departments or centers are involved in collaboration. To address this, Chapel Hill has instituted a new policy that allows more than one principal investigator on a grant award and provides a formula and guidelines for distributing F&A. Chapel Hill is also currently studying ways to improve its ability to provide rapid, efficient support to researchers who need help setting up subcontracts and reduce "red tape" in subcontracting.