Measure: Institutional Support as a Percent of Total Operating Expenses (Goal 5)

General Definition:
Institutional Support costs are generally considered the sum of general administrative costs. The Illinois Board of Higher Education defines Institutional Support as “those activities carried out to provide for both day-to-day functioning as well as the long-range viability of the university as an operating organization.” Institutional Support (1) provides planning and executive direction, (2) provides administrative and logistical services, (3) enhances relationships with University constituencies, and (4) provides services and conveniences for the employees of the institution.

Frame of Reference:
Frame of reference is set by the higher education industry and the Higher Learning Commission: Institutions with Institutional Support costs in the 6% range, as a percent of total operating costs, are generally considered the leanest institutions. Given this standard, the standing long term target for Northeastern is set at 6.5%.

Frequency of Measurement:
This KPI is measured each fiscal year.