

Briefing on Strategic Planning Process for Task Force and Working Group Chairs

Background

The university has developed significantly over the last 25 years, enhancing its educational, research and community service programs. The recent and dramatic reduction in financial support from the state creates a new set of challenges for the university and highlights the critical importance of engaging in a strategic planning process. Planning becomes more, not less, important when we face significant challenges. The purpose of the planning process is to consider how we can build upon our current strengths, meet our challenges and seize emerging opportunities. In doing this, we will continue our development as a leading public research university and accomplish our educational, research and community service missions.

Organizational Framework for the Planning Process

The planning process relies heavily on the work of a steering committee and five task forces with their associated working groups. The steering committee is responsible for the overall planning process, including the preparation of the final version of the plan. The steering committee is responsible for integrating the recommendations of the task forces, creating an integrated financial plan to address the university's financial challenges, prioritizing recommended initiatives and considering ways to fund prioritized initiatives.

Each of the five task forces and their associated working groups are responsible for a specific area. The five areas are Student Success and Academic Excellence, Research and Creative Endeavors, Community Engagement, Diversity and Internationalization. Each task force is responsible for identifying goals and initiatives we should undertake in the referenced area, determining the resource requirements of the goals and initiatives, and setting priorities among the recommended goals and initiatives. Where appropriate, performance metrics may also be identified.

Engagement of the Campus Community

To facilitate the engagement of the campus community, the Steering Committee and each Task Force should hold an open forum to solicit comments and opinions from the university community. Members of the community should also be invited to communicate suggestions in writing to the committee and task force chairs. All written reports and recommendations should be presented in draft form on the strategic planning process website and members of the community should be invited to comment prior to the completion of any report.

Materials for the Planning Process and Format for Reports

Each committee and task force will receive a set of potential questions, background data, and community comments derived from prior community input. Task force reports can be between 1 and 5 pages and should include general information about the area of the task force, identified goals (if relevant) and recommended initiatives. The resource requirements of all recommended initiatives should be included. Relevant background information and the detailed rationale for recommended initiatives can be included in appendices. The final task force report will integrate the task force recommendations and integrated financial plans as described above.