Working Group final reports have been posted on the Strategic Plan website. Task Force draft reports are due January 17; feedback on Task Force draft reports is due January 24. An email will go out to the campus community soliciting feedback.

President Hirshman addressed the committee and stressed the importance of putting ideas into context, looking at where the ideas fit in with what we’re doing now. If the idea has already been embraced by the university, focus should be on how to integrate.

The task forces shared developing ideas.

Internationalization is focusing on integration into all aspects of the university, including marketing and increasing the number of international students and experiences.

Community Engagement is focusing on developing communication methods through outreach.

Research and Creative Endeavors is focusing on resources and transparent resource allocation, multi-disciplinary issues, and integrating the arts in to the community.

Diversity is focusing on initiatives that will enable faculty, staff and students to work within a diverse environment and bring together underrepresented groups.

Student Success and Academic Excellence is prioritizing among many great ideas, including increasing graduation rates; focusing on high-achieving students and broadening the definition to include overall student contribution to the university; and rethinking/readdressing issues related to alcohol and other drugs to include regional and national context.

Discussion continued with President Hirshman’s reiteration of the importance of context when establishing goals, in order to help prioritize and narrow down the number of ideas. Consider how to turn ideas to action, while prioritizing accordingly, i.e., how does the idea fit into the political atmosphere of the campus, either as an established idea or
a new idea. Expenditure and impact should also be included in task force reports. President Hirshman also explained the ongoing process will include consideration for how to move forward and an assessment of the implementation, through senior leadership and use of our current structure (committees, etc.).

The next meeting of the Steering Committee and Task Force Co-chairs is January 30. Task force final reports are due February 1. The Steering Committee will meet weekly in February and March, in order to draft and discuss the Steering Committee report. A reminder of the weekly meeting schedule will be sent to the Steering Committee.