Subject: Strategic Plan: Working Document
  Date: Thu, 6 Mar 2008 22:16:49 -0500 (EST)
  From: "Nariman Farvardin, Provost" <UMMailer@megamail.umd.edu>
   To: "The University of Maryland Community":;

To the University of Maryland Community:

As you know, we have initiated a strategic planning process to chart the University of Maryland s course for the next ten years and beyond. In his State of the Campus address on September 17, 2007, President Mote urged the University community to think boldly, in transformational terms. Incremental progress should not be satisfactory. His charge to us called for the development of a plan that would establish a shared vision of our future and advance the University to world-class rank. Implementation must be carried out with high expectations and a sense of urgency.

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC) has been meeting since early October, rigorously assessing the current state of the University, developing strategies for overcoming weaknesses, crafting potential new initiatives, and setting goals aimed at moving the University to world-class status. In late November, we asked you to assist us by sharing your views on the University's main strengths and weaknesses and by offering your thoughts on necessary changes and initiatives. More than 700 of you participated with over 6,500 responses to the fifteen open-ended questions that we asked. A summary of your responses was distributed on January 17, 2008, and can still be found on line at http://sp07.umd.edu/CommunityInputSummary.pdf.

Based on your input and extensive deliberations, the SPSC has now developed a preliminary set of "Strategic Priorities," "Major Initiatives," and "Critical Enablers" for the strategic plan. We are again asking for your input as we work to improve these concepts and incorporate them into an integrated and compelling plan. Our working document can be accessed via a link on the SPSC website, http://sp07.umd.edu, or directly at http://sp07.umd.edu/StrategicPlanWorking.html. Also on that page, at the Community Input link, or http://sp07.umd.edu/feedback.cfm, you are invited to give us your views on any of the working document's eleven major sections and any other of its aspects.

Let me emphasize that these plans are a working draft and are far from being a final product. We are sharing with you our thoughts at this early stage to get your input. Based on your feedback and after additional discussions, the SPSC will prepare a revised and more complete document which we will share with you in about a month. We anticipate that the revised document will be significantly different from this working document. There will be additions, deletions, modifications, and improvements of various types throughout the document. Furthermore, an appropriate executive summary and a preamble will be added in the beginning, and additional details regarding the implementation timetable and communication plan, as well as concluding remarks, will be appended at the end.

We need your responses by March 21, or earlier, so that we can develop a revised version for your further consideration by early April. Our goal is to have a final draft for the consideration of the University Senate at its April 21, 2008, meeting. Your comments concerning the substance and clarity of what is being proposed will be most valuable. Grammar, typographical errors, and felicity of style will be addressed elsewhere.

Thank you for your participation in this most important endeavor and for your invaluable help.

Nariman Farvardin
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

                 ****