

MEMORANDUM

October 18, 2016

TO: System-Wide Strategic Planning Committee Members

FROM: Eric W. Kaler, President 

RE: System-Wide Strategic Planning Committee

I want to thank you for agreeing to serve on the System-Wide Strategic Planning committee. This work is important to the Board of Regents and me, and is reflected in our respective annual priorities and work plans. I want to extend my gratitude to University of Minnesota, Rochester Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Rebecca Ropers-Huilman, for agreeing to co-chair this effort.

This strategic plan will be historic. We have never before developed a system-wide plan to better align our resources and leverage our strengths as a system. I expect this plan to draw from existing campus plans, including *Driving Tomorrow*, the strategic plan recently completed for the Twin Cities campus.

While each campus plan will continue to guide decision-making and resource-allocation locally, and mindful of the distinctive missions and strengths of each campus, I seek a document that illuminates and embraces our 21st Century land grant mission. Specifically, it should articulate the common values, processes, and expectations across campuses and how the unique strengths of the constituent parts of the system, including Extension and the Research Outreach Centers, can strengthen what the University of Minnesota offers to the State of Minnesota, to our region, and to the world.

To that end, I am charging the University of Minnesota System-Wide Strategic Planning Committee with reviewing campus planning documents and annual reports that detail unique areas of strength; gathering input from leaders, faculty members, staff, and students at the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and Twin Cities campuses; and recommending new opportunities to leverage a system-wide perspective to benefit all our students and citizens across the state.

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The committee should produce a document the Board of Regents and I can use for decision making and to guide faculty members and leaders across the system in identifying and pursuing enhanced opportunities for interactions system-wide. To that end, please craft a plan that answers the following questions:

- Who are we as a university system? What are our collective strengths and commitments? What are the unique strengths of individual campuses?
- How do we ensure that the unique areas of strength are complementary and connected within the system?
- How do we ensure that the collective and unique strengths of our campuses, Extension, and Research Outreach Centers are accessible to and meet the needs of students, faculty, Minnesota communities, and other stakeholders?
- What strategic intentions should guide both short- and long-term planning, decision-making and resource allocation?

As you go about this work, I would encourage you to come to it as a “University citizen,” not solely as a representative of a specific campus, unit or constituency. We need this committee to think creatively and big about how we can make our University of Minnesota system more impactful and greater than the sum of its parts.

This strategic planning effort is slated to begin immediately and should be completed by June 30, 2017. Chancellor Lehmkuhle and Vice Provost Ropers-Huilman will be in contact with you about the planning process and calendar. Our goal is to have a nimble process that is respectful of committee members’ time and deploys individuals to maximize their expertise and contributions.

Thank you in advance for your commitment and assistance in this important process.

EWK/kl

Attachment

- c: Karen Hanson, executive vice president and provost, Academic Affairs
Lendley Black, chancellor, University of Minnesota Duluth
Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor, University of Minnesota Morris
Fred Wood, chancellor, University of Minnesota Crookston

System-Wide Strategic Planning Committee

Stephen Lemkuhle, chancellor, University of Minnesota Rochester, UMR, co-chair

Rebecca Ropers-Huilman, vice provost, Faculty and Academic Affairs, UMTC, co-chair

Abram Anders, associate professor of business communication, UMD

Lauren Anderson, sophomore, bachelor of sciences, Health Sciences, UMR

Erik Brown, interim associate vice chancellor, Graduate Education and Research, UMD

Spencer Buchanan, senior, Political Science, UMTC

Brian Buhr, dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences, UMTC

Colin Campbell, associate professor, Pharmacology, and FCC Chair, UMTC

Lori Carrell, vice chancellor, Academic Affairs and Student Development, UMR

Bev Durgan, dean, University of Minnesota Extension

Nathan Ernst, senior, Political Science, and president, Student Association, UMD

Bart Finzel, vice chancellor and dean, Academic Affairs, UMM

Michael Goh, associate vice provost, Office for Equity and Diversity

Bernie Gulachek, interim vice president, Office of Information Technology

Alex Hermida, doctoral student, Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development, UMTC

Mark Huglen, professor, Liberal Arts and Education, UMC

Lincoln Kallsen, director, Institutional Analysis, UMTC

Barbara Keinath, vice chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, UMC

Aaron Kostko, assistant professor, Philosophy, UMR

Scott Lanyon, vice provost and dean, Graduate Education, UMTC

Katie Lederman, senior, Financial & Organizational Management and Environmental Studies, UMM

Robert McMaster, vice provost and dean, Undergraduate Education, UMTC

Brook Miller, professor, Division of Humanities, UMM

Claudia Neuhauser, director, Research Computing, associate vice president, Office of the Vice President for Research

Steve Parente, associate dean, Master of Business Program, Carlson School of Management, UMTC

Tareyn Stomberg, senior, Agricultural Business and Animal Science, UMC