

MEMORANDUM

April 10, 2020

To: Rachel Croson, Executive Vice President and Provost, *Co-Chair*
Chris Cramer, Vice President for Research, *Co-Chair*
Kriti Agarwal, President, Council of Graduate Students
Lori Carrell, Chancellor, University of Minnesota Rochester
Valery Forbes, Dean, College of Biological Sciences
Lynn Lukkas, Professor of Art, College of Liberal Arts
Amy Pittenger, Associate Professor of Pharmacy Care and Health Systems, College of
Pharmacy, and FCC Chair
Sam Rosemark, Student Body President, University of Minnesota Morris Campus Student
Association

From: Joan T.A. Gabel, President 

Subject: Academic & Research Planning Work Group

Thank you for serving on the Academic & Research Planning Work Group. Your critical charge is to advise me with academic and research planning strategies to advance the University in the midst of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to Provost Rachel Croson and Vice President Chris Cramer for providing leadership and to all of you for sharing your creativity and insights during this challenging time.

In light of uncertainty around the future, I suspect our work will come in phases. As an initial effort and in full recognition that this will evolve, I request that you prepare a preliminary set of recommendations by June 1, 2020, regarding the following:

- How should the University curate its mission and ensure that the core attributes of our work endure despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What steps should we take to remain a University of choice for both current and future students with respect to pricing, content, and modality?
- What criteria do you recommend for pausing, ending, accelerating or launching new programs (academic or otherwise) during the pandemic and beyond to maintain our academic and research strengths?
- How do we “double down” on our research distinction with an emphasis on our MNtersections?

I ask that you consult with key stakeholders and invite other University leaders to participate in your conversations, as appropriate. In anticipation of some of the specific questions you are likely to explore, I have already asked the following people to serve as consulting members who are available to you on an ad hoc basis:

- Mary Holz-Clause, Chancellor, University of Minnesota Crookston
- Amina Jaafar, Assistant Vice President, Office for Equity and Diversity
- Bob McMaster, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
- Heidi Meyer, Executive Director, Office of Admissions

Brianne Keeney in my office will provide staff support to the work group.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your leadership and service to the University of Minnesota.

cc: Brianne Keeney, Assistant to the President