

Strategic Plan Update

Sept. 23, 2014

Colleagues and students:

As you know, we spent much of the 2013-14 academic year engaged in a series of campus conversations (in committees, open forums, and online commentary) aimed at creating the next Strategic Plan for the University of Kentucky. I am so grateful for all the hard work and thoughtful discussion invested in formulating the pathway to strengthening our University as we pursue our long-cherished missions of instruction, research, and service.

In late May, the Strategic Plan committees provided to me drafts of their work. In consultation with the Provost, I decided that while the drafts have clearly laid the necessary groundwork for bringing the next Strategic Plan to fruition, there is still work to do in integrating the results of individual committee efforts into a cohesive and focused plan, the backbone of which will be a vision for the future and a core set of strategic priorities leading to greater distinctiveness for our University. More specifically, what lies ahead of us is the work of:

- Supplementing the draft reports with additional data to generate a complete picture of our current position, challenges, opportunities, and most appropriate and aggressive path forward
- Refining and enriching the draft recommendations for each of the eight goals and integrating them into a well-defined set of priorities reflecting our values and the core strategic directions and initiatives that will further differentiate our University from our peers
- Determining the resources necessary to achieve our objectives and identifying potential funding opportunities
- Outlining the implementation plan, including the action and additional planning steps associated with each strategic initiative and metric

Accordingly, in the coming months, I will be working closely with the co-chairs, with the aim to produce for campus review:

- A data-rich profile of UK's current position, relative to its past performance and to its competitors
- An agreed-upon, integrated set of strategic priorities and directions

We will work throughout the Fall 2014 semester and will be diligent in continuing our dialogue with the campus community, eliciting feedback as our work progresses. Following these steps, we will be in a position to begin profiling projected resource requirements and potential funding sources, as well as to initiate the preparation of an appropriately complete and detailed implementation plan. While this extended period of conversation has moved us well past the original timeline we established, I am convinced that it is in the best interest of the University to continue a methodical discussion leading to agreement on a set of specific priorities, defined by aggressive goals and supported by necessary data.

Our entire community owes a debt of gratitude for the dedication to this important effort provided by so many faculty, staff, students, and administrators over the last several months. Their work has put us in a position to complete a Plan reflective of the high purpose of our University.

Eli Capilouto
President