

UK Board Retreat: Our Progress and Planning to Move Forward

October 27, 2013

Colleagues and Students,

This weekend – for a day-and-a-half – our Board of Trustees met for their annual retreat. These meetings help establish priorities and create a sense of shared focus on how we move forward as Kentucky’s indispensable institution.

The Board of Trustees Saturday morning strongly endorsed guiding principles for the continued development of two plans – our strategic plan and our master plan – that will guide our university’s academic and physical development. Our strategic plan for 2014-2020 – what we are calling “see tomorrow. A Strategic Plan for the University of Kentucky” – will be developed by our entire campus in a collaborative fashion between now and June. Six principles for the strategic plan include:

- Creating a vibrant undergraduate learning community
- Advancing a high quality graduate and professional education portfolio
- Cultivating a robust research environment
- Developing a strong and sustainable UK infrastructure
- Creating a positive work environment for faculty and staff
- Having a meaningful impact on the Commonwealth and community

Principles for the master plan, which has been under development for a little more than a year, are focused on:

- Academic environment: creating a 21st century learning environment that supports the needs of today’s students
- Campus life: enhancing the student life experience
- Community: forging partnerships that strengthen neighborhoods and downtown
- Growth: establishing a long-term plan for growth consistent with UK’s mission
- Mobility: facilitating safer and more efficient mobility
- Landscape structure: establishing legible open space and landscaping that improves campus quality
- Sustainability: integrating sustainability in every aspect of planning

These are the principles that will guide the development of these critical plans. But plans are only as meaningful as the people who implement them and who believe in their relevance as a reflection of our values.

For three weeks earlier this month, [I traveled across Kentucky](#) and neighboring states, representing you in several cities in Kentucky and the region.

My time out in the state has only deepened my sense of optimism about UK's future. I believe we have a window of opportunity, if we seize it now. We can be a leader in providing the highest-

quality, residential educational experience in Kentucky and the region -- one infused with technology and emboldened by research and service that gives our students and our state unparalleled opportunities.

But we have to determine, together, as leaders of an institution and as a campus community, how we move forward to address and answer these questions. I look forward to that journey as I continue to represent you to our Commonwealth and beyond.

Eli Capilouto