

November 4, 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: PLANNING PROCESS

This fall many members of the University community actively engaged in reviewing the “Proposal to Pilot the Method of Real-Time Strategic Planning for Nonprofits at Metropolitan State University” that had been submitted to the University’s Planning and Budget Council by Metropolitan State’s 2010 Joint Initiative Group on University Planning. This proposal was posted on the University portal (under “Strategic Planning”), discussed at the September 28 Forum on University Planning, and considered by our constituencies through the Meet-and-Confer process. I am grateful to all of you who participated in the review process. The resulting conversations have been frank, constructive, and helpful, and they have further informed our consideration of the proposed planning process.

Taking into account the input of our constituency groups and the many discussions that have taken place, both the Planning and Budget Council and the President’s Cabinet have recommended that we pilot the Real-Time Strategic Planning process for a period of three years. I am pleased to accept that recommendation and excited to have the opportunity to institute planning processes that are more inclusive, collaborative, and responsive to address the many opportunities and challenges we will face in the next few years.

In the coming months, we will work with stakeholders and constituency groups to move toward implementing the pilot in a way that is inclusive and that supports employee participation and collaboration. The specific details have yet to be worked out. We have received a number of suggestions for further refinements of the process and timeline that were suggested in the proposal, and I expect additional constructive suggestions to come forward as we continue to work with and seek feedback and suggestions from our stakeholders and constituency groups.

As a pilot, the new process is a work in progress and will no doubt evolve over time. For the campus community, this will be an important opportunity to ensure robust opportunities for input, feedback, information-sharing, and informed decision-making. The pilot will be evaluated in terms of the degree to which it enhances our ability to work together to carry out our mission, act upon our core values, and support our employees in their work to create value for our students. Please watch for further information about the new planning process that will be shared as it becomes available.

Thanks again to all who participated in the development, discussion, critiquing, and consideration of the proposed process.

Sincerely,



Sue K. Hammersmith, Ph.D.
President