

Subject: Strategic Planning -- Survey Results
Date: Thu, 17 Jan 2008 15:02:04 -0500 (EST)
From: "Nariman Farvardin, Provost" <UMMailer@megamail.umd.edu>
Reply-To: brodgers@umd.edu
To: "University of Maryland Community":;

To the University of Maryland Community:

Last fall, I wrote to request help from the University of Maryland community -- faculty, students, staff, alumni, and friends -- in generating a plan to make our institution one of the finest public research universities in the world. More than 700 of you responded to a survey initiated by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, which is working to assess the University's strengths and weaknesses, identify opportunities, envision new initiatives, and devise strategies for bold and dynamic improvement. You provided some 6,654 answers to the survey's 15 questions on such topics as undergraduate and graduate education, student and faculty recruitment, diversity, administrative procedures, the quality of our campus and neighborhood, and the best ways to leverage our proximity to the nation's capital. Other members of the University community sent in letters and e-mails with additional suggestions for the committee.

All of this input has been invaluable. Since participation was voluntary and respondents were self-selected, this survey was not meant to be a scientific study of a representative sample within the University community. Rather, it has been useful in helping identify areas ripe for attention, and it has provided an array of thoughtful and clever ideas.

The summary document is available online at: <http://sp07.umd.edu/CommunityInputSummary.pdf>. In the summary, you will find a list of the challenges that were identified as providing the greatest opportunities for change, along with some of the initiatives proposed for meeting those challenges. This concise list, arranged by themes that surfaced in the responses, does not include all of the specific issues that were raised, all of the insightful ideas that were received, or the great many positive comments about the University's strengths. But it will give you a sense of how members of the University community feel about where we should go and how we should get there.

To those of you who responded, many thanks for your help in this important process. The Steering Committee will complete its work this spring, and the Strategic Plan will be submitted to the University Senate for discussion and endorsement in April.

Nariman Farvardin
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

This note was authorized for distribution to
University of Maryland Community by:
Nariman Farvardin, Provost