

University Plan Steering Committee Report of Meeting on August 28, 2007

The University Plan Steering Committee met on August 28 to prepare for the year's principal task: guiding the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the University for the next five years. The plan is expected to be completed in time for presentation to the Board of Trustees in June 2008. Principal items of discussion at the meeting included:

Update on the environment for planning. Interim Provost Jerold Goldberg discussed changes in the membership of the committee, in institutional leadership, and in the time frame for planning. He also emphasized the importance of transparency in the planning process so that members of the University community can be aware of its progress and direction. Vice President Christine Ash discussed the status of the University budget.

Involvement of a consulting firm. Provost Goldberg and Richard Baznik of the Institute for the Study of the University in Society described planning consultants under consideration and the proposed scope of a consultant's involvement. The Steering Committee will meet finalists and recommend a preferred firm.

Updates on school-based planning. The Steering Committee heard and discussed brief reports on the status of planning activities in the following schools: College of Arts and Sciences (Prof. Sandra Russ); Case School of Engineering (Prof. Steven Eppell); Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (Baznik on behalf of Dean Grover C. Gilmore); School of Dental Medicine (Prof. Avishai Sadan); Weatherhead School of Management (Prof. Bo Carlsson); School of Medicine (Prof. James Kazura); and Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing (Prof. Shirley Moore).

Committee work plan for 2007-08. Baznik reviewed a tentative outline of activities through the academic year, many involving the Steering Committee. Baznik will devote the majority of his time this year to working on the plan.