

## **University Plan Steering Committee Report of Meeting on September 25, 2007**

The University Plan Steering Committee met on September 25. Principal items of discussion at the meeting included:

***Committee membership:*** Interim Provost Jerold Goldberg introduced two new members of the committee attending their first meeting, and described efforts under way to complete the membership over the next week or so. He also outlined a proposal to create a Working Group as a subset of the full committee to conduct preliminary reviews of information and to frame questions for consideration by the committee. He said the notion of the Working Group will be finalized as soon as a planning consultant is engaged.

***Selection of a consulting firm.*** Provost Goldberg and Richard Baznik of the Institute for the Study of the University in Society presented information gathered in the prior week concerning the two consulting firms interviewed by the committee and the deans earlier in the month. Information included reports of conversations with references and other discussions with persons knowledgeable about the firms' work. Baznik followed up with the committee members and the deans via email after the meeting to ask for their preferences between the two firms. Selection of the firm will be announced very shortly.

***Update on planning discussions with schools.*** Goldberg, Baznik, and Susan Karaba of the Provost's Office have attended meetings in the College and each of the schools over the prior week to discuss the planning process and related issues. Goldberg summarized the themes raised in these visits, which are more focused and forward-looking than those encountered in a round of discussions with the schools early in 2007. Topics raised at these meetings included the representation of faculty in the process and the relationship between strategic planning steps and more immediate budget issues.

***Other topics.*** Provost Goldberg described plans for a meeting of the Board of Trustees' Committee on Academic Affairs and Student Life, scheduled for October 19, where the principal topic of discussion will relate to strategic planning. In addition, a faculty member of the committee asked for assurance that the University will have access to sufficient data to support the kind of analysis needed to develop a useful strategic plan for the next five years.