

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE SUMMIT PLANNING

Background issues and activities for summer:

Strategic planning overall

- We want to acknowledge openly to all parts of the university community our great thanks and appreciation for their sustained effort. People have worked really hard to get us to where we are in strategic planning.
- We will update the KU community on overall status. In particular, based on the inputs we have received, we are preparing the strategic planning report, which will focus on the four main goals as reflected by our work groups:
 - *Driving Discovery and Innovation;*
 - *Elevating Doctoral Education;*
 - *Energizing the Educational Environment;*
 - *Engaging Scholarship for Public Impact;*as well as by two overarching goals:
 - *Enabling People;*
 - *Promoting Infrastructure and Resources.*
- We will disseminate the report for feedback in late summer.
- We will launch a small implementation team to handle logistics and ongoing oversight. The team reporting to the provost will consist of the senior vice provost for academic affairs, vice provost for faculty development, vice chancellor for research, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, special advisor to the provost, and director of the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

Strategic initiative themes

- A key part of the strategic plan, especially in driving discovery and innovation, is the four strategic initiative themes that emerged from the proposals submitted February 28, 2011. They are listed below with the summit co-chairs:
 - *Sustaining the Planet, Powering the World:* Bob Honea, Joane Nagel, and Judy Wu
 - *Promoting Well-Being, Finding Cures:* Jeff Aubé, John Colombo, and Dave Ekerdt.
 - *Building Communities, Expanding Opportunities:* Marta Caminero-Santangelo, Derrick Darby, Don Deshler, and Steven Maynard Moody
 - *Harnessing Information, Multiplying Knowledge:* Perry Alexander, Nancy Baym, and Kris Krishtalka
- Each strategic initiative theme contains a number of exciting bold ideas.
- Each of the strategic initiative themes is broader than the individual proposals and reflects a number of exciting proposals and priorities that span across the individual schools and the College. At the same time, the strategic initiative themes collectively will not capture all that KU does, and individual schools and the College will have internal priorities as well.
- The strategic initiative proposal process was *by no means* a competition for the selection of specific proposals. The exercise accomplished two important initial goals :
 - It encouraged faculty and other researchers to interweave their research visions around bold ideas and to envision future research connections and synergies.
 - It provided the deans and university administration an initial opportunity to assess and shape these exciting initiatives for long-term investment.

- The next steps are to bring together and enhance faculty and staff networks in order to fully realize that potential. In particular, in each of the four strategic initiative themes, we will hold a strategic initiative summit for the KU community.

Strategic Initiative Summits

In each strategic initiative theme, we will hold a strategic initiative summit by February 1, 2012.

Goal of the strategic initiative summits: Transforming good ideas into great ideas

- Create university-wide conversations about KU's research capacities and future directions. Beginning with the initial proposals submitted and with a broad university-wide perspective, explore the particular strategic initiative theme, analyze our current research strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats, discuss ways of broadening the research and educational community both within KU and with external partners, and explore potential for realizing specific external funding opportunities.
- Develop a vision and identify a leadership team that will enhance research excellence and succeed in realizing external funding.
- Generate strengthened research networks in the strategic initiative theme that
 - have greater visibility;
 - are broad, multidisciplinary groups;
 - have success in external funding and partnerships;
 - develop additional talent from KU community who (with mentoring) can provide research leadership for KU in the future, especially assistant and associate profs not currently in the mix.
- Identify next steps and provide input to the university and to the deans and their schools for long-range hiring and resource planning effective for the coming academic year. The retreats will inform the plans each school and the College will develop for hiring. The overall approach to hiring at KU will keep in mind multiple priorities, feasibility issues, and a vision for the institution over time.