

December 1, 2014

To: James Lentini,  
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

From: Ron Tracy  
Chair, Senate Planning Review Committee

RE: University Strategic Plan Outline and Mission Statement

On November 24, 2014 the Senate Planning Review Committee met to discuss and evaluate the University Strategic Plan Outline and Mission Statement. Provost Lentini and Prof. Janell Townsend, both from the University Strategic Planning Committee charged with drafting the Outline, were in attendance to answer questions. Provost Lentini discussed the three Goals and the mission in general terms and said that details would be filled in with task forces, one for each goal and some others dealing with broader issues.

The committee then began asking questions:

- The breadth of the four goals and mission statement was questioned
  - Both Townsend and Lentini said that this was both unavoidable and intentional. It was unavoidable since in order to keep the goals to a small number they had to be general and all encompassing. It was intentional so that the task forces could fill in the details.
- The lack of any mention of Oakland University's skeleton infrastructure was questioned
  - They answered that they hoped each task force would address the infrastructure issues related to that task force's charge
- The role of university governance in this process was raised.
  - Lentini said that he expected members of appropriate senate committees would be on task forces.
- The future role of the University Strategic Planning Committee was raised
  - Lentini said that he believed it would continue but its specific function has not yet been determined

After Lentini and Townsend left, the committee discussed the issues and identified points that it wanted to be part of our affirmation of the Strategic Plan Outline and Mission Statement:

1. Senate governance committees (through representation) should have input into the selection of task force members
2. The importance of Lentini's statement that task forces would have appropriate representation from senate standing committees was reaffirmed.
3. Task forces should have student representation.
4. That a time line be set up when the task forces are announced so that there is a clear understanding of what is to be expected and when.
5. Each task forces' charge should specially ask them to address infrastructure issues and to identify specific strategies and tactics that can distinguish Oakland from its competitors.
6. That the final Strategic Plan with task force strategies and tactics be presented to the University Senate and go through university governance.

After the discussion ended the committee unanimously approved a motion to endorse the University Strategic Plan Outline and Mission Statement