

From: President Royce C. Engstrom [<mailto:ThePresident@umontana.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 4:57 PM
To: CampusCommunications@umontana.edu
Subject: Strategic Planning and Program Prioritization

TO: Campus Community

FROM: Royce C. Engstrom, President

I want to clarify the connection and timing of two critical processes currently underway at UM. One is the strategic planning process that I launched last spring. The other is the academic and administrative programs prioritization process that we will engage in following adoption of UM's new strategic plan. While there is some overlap in campus engagement around these efforts, the strategic plan will precede and therefore provide the context for program prioritization.

I have charged the Strategic Plan Coordinating Council (SPCC) with producing a UM strategic plan by April 2017. As of today, the SPCC has engaged with thousands of UM stakeholders to understand where we are and where we want to go. Stakeholder input will continue to drive the strategic planning process as the SPCC conducts its analysis and produces the draft plan. This new strategic plan will outline broad, overarching goals and priorities for the University of Montana while also offering clear guidance on the daily decisions we all make as part of the UM community.

Our strategic direction will require thoughtful and intentional decisions to align resources with our highest priorities. In anticipation of that, I have asked Interim Provost Beverly Edmond to begin designing a process for academic and administrative programs prioritization. Recently, UM and the other units within the Montana University System participated in a workshop on Academic Program and Services Prioritization. We've been discussing the potential benefits for UM and have concluded that the university should and will move forward with prioritization of both academic programs and services.

As an initial step in this process, Interim Provost Edmond has scheduled a series of listening sessions across campus to hear your collective thoughts, ideas, strategies and concerns about the prioritization process. Your participation in these sessions, along with other activities planned around this subject, will inform the process moving forward. With the knowledge that other institutions which have been successful in their program prioritization efforts have taken 9-12 months to fully examine the process prior to implementation, we will endeavor to follow a similar timeline. Our initial efforts will be focused on academic programs, with the intention of including sessions specific to administrative services prioritization as well.

I realize there are questions about program prioritization and what it will mean for our future. Your participation will be critical to ensuring a thoughtful and collaborative approach which keeps, at its center, the best interests of our university.

Thank you, and I wish you all a relaxing Holiday weekend.

This message was sent by the Office of the President to all University of Montana students and employees. To contact President Engstrom, please write to prestalk@umontana.edu.