

From: President Sheila M. Stearns [mailto:ThePresident@umontana.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 1:59 PM
To: CampusCommunications@umontana.edu
Subject: APASP Next Steps

Greetings All,

Several shared governance leaders have advised me recently about campus concerns regarding [APASP](#), and what happens next. Here is a summary of my intentions and observations:

- After the [Cabinet meeting](#) on Friday, December 8, I will distill the many reflections and recommendations (from the APASP task force, Deans, sector heads, and others) into an essay for President Bodnar and the next administration.
- My recommendations and reflections, and all of the APASP research and deliberation, will help inform critical decisions during spring semester of 2018. We have dug the foundation for the new President to build a new structure of strategic priorities for the University of Montana. Whether the foundation is deep enough or exactly the right dimensions is uncertain. In fact, most Task Force members would say correctly they haven't finished digging or designing the foundation. Yet through this process, just as with the [strategic planning process](#), a lot of campus architects have given information and advice for the future structural plans. Their work matters now and it will matter even more in the future.
- Someone asked if APASP would result in a flurry of pink slips as I leave the presidency. Heavens no. Setting priorities for investing in some programs and making others more efficient takes time, and will surely affect budget decisions for 2019 by the new President, the executive officers, deans, and program heads.
- For those who worry about whether APASP has been useful, the answer is adamantly yes. As program reports have been posted and reviewed, many of us look at them frequently for insight and information, and will continue to do so.
- The APASP Task Force and its chair, Provost Edmond, deserve accolades for how open the process has been every step of the way. Every meeting has been posted in advance and open to the public, and all of their processes have been discussed in multiple meetings. The Task Force sponsored numerous campus forums along the way for additional advice on how the Task Force work could be more inclusive and useful. They responded positively and promptly at every step.
- Whether and how APASP continues, and in what form, will be decided by President Bodnar. I recommend that we seek ongoing opportunities to update or improve reports about units that matter most to you. They are out there in the public domain. Take responsibility to ensure they are accurate and current. I recommend that the APASP Task Force have the opportunity to complete their work, even if at a less detailed level for phase II.
- I set the December deadline for completing as much work as possible on APASP so that I would have a meaningful opportunity to make recommendations to the new administration. Through much hard work for the past year, the Task Force has produced a wealth of information to help the new President prioritize the University's opportunities for excellence and growth.

- Among the many benefits of APASP, UM's institutional research professionals have found new allies and advisers on what metrics are most helpful to the rest of campus. I hope the process of improving available data is ongoing and effective.

Sincerely,
Sheila M. Stearns, President

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