University Planning Sessions Background

In early 2010, as we neared the halfway point of Phase I of our strategic and campus master plans (2007-2013), President Flynn suggested that the time was right for the university to review progress and focus the course for the remainder of Phase I (2011-2013) as well as provide additional direction for Phase II (2013-2018). He noted that we had made dramatic progress and enjoyed opportunities not initially envisioned just a few years ago. And yet, external conditions had also greatly changed, marked by a far less favorable economic and political environment for higher education.

Since our plans were developed recently, they need updating not major revision. Both the campus-wide Alvernia Planning Advisory Council (APAC) and the Board’s Executive Committee have reviewed our progress within the context of Alvernia’s current challenges and opportunities, internally and externally. Both groups have strongly reaffirmed the plan’s priorities and goals, while identifying potential new emphases for the future. The Board and the President agreed to complete this work in October, so it can be submitted to the Board for final review and approval.

The Cabinet Team has major responsibility to coordinate this effort, in partnership with and accountability to the Board’s Executive Committee and APAC as the groups charged with monitoring our progress. But this is also an ideal opportunity for the entire university community to be engaged in shaping our future. To that end, discussion sessions are being planned for each of the operating divisions and colleges on campus to review our major priorities and also share thoughts about long-term Aspirations for Alvernia.

Several documents are being provided as background for those sessions.

An updated draft of the strategic plan, guided by the Mission and Vision Statements (Part I) approved by the Board in 2007. Parts II-V provide important context as well as a thematic review of progress during the last several years. Part VI includes both the original priorities and goals from 2007 AND the updated goals and next campus master plan projects. Note that Part VII, “Alvernia in 2018,” will be drafted by the President following the campus community’s “re-envisioning” conversations.

Updated campus master plan maps that provide an overview of potential projects, both near-term (2-7 years) and longer-term (7-20 years).

An excerpt of President Flynn’s recent State of the University remarks that focuses on future Aspirations for Alvernia.

At divisional and college meetings, three questions will be discussed:

- Are the updated goals and campus master planning projects (pp. 17-23) appropriate?
- Are there any important omissions from the overall list of goals and projects?
- What would be key elements of your vision for “Alvernia in 2018?”

Faculty and staff are asked to review the background documents and come prepared to discuss the questions at their meetings.