

April 5, 2006

Dear Senior Vice President Robert Jones and Chancellor Sam Schuman:

Attached, please find a copy of the Final Recommendations of the University of Minnesota, Morris' Strategic Positioning Task Force. The task force consisted of 16 members with nearly equal representation of students, faculty, staff, and administrators. We met regularly as a committee and engaged in various fora and venues to collect input from our stakeholders and analyze reports and data received from students, faculty, and staff. The group sponsored a kick-off event in the fall which was attended by 80 members of the campus community, held 60 focus groups attended by more than 650 members of the campus and the broader community, offered on-line surveys completed by 210 stakeholders who were unable to attend a focus group, and conducted individual interviews with University of Minnesota Regents and senior administrators, as well as prominent legislators.

The Task Force worked in a very participatory and inclusive way. All of our meetings were open to the public and we regularly had half a dozen guests at our meetings. In preparing this final report, the Task Force sought input from senior campus administrators and held two open fora to receive feedback to our first version of this report. All of these points of view have been considered in arriving at our final recommendations.

We believe that this final strategic report will be invaluable to the new Chancellor, who we expect to hire in the next couple of months, and to the new Chief Academic Officer, who we expect to hire within a year. In an effort to allow these new individuals to have a say in the execution of this strategic plan, we are unable to provide the implementation details at this time. We have consulted with Chancellor Schuman on this matter and he concurs with this judgment.

Members of the Task Force feel that UMM's future is bright once we successfully address our enrollment shortfall and bring our staff in line with student enrollment. We perceive that the strategic planning process has been very beneficial and timely to our campus. We are also very pleased that many of the initiatives resulting from the stakeholder input found in this document parallel the initiatives that have been advanced by Chancellor Schuman and the Chancellor's Leadership Team as part of the Campus Compact process.

In your letter to the Strategic Positioning Task Force, you asked us to address the budget shortfall that UMM experienced this year that might continue into the next. The Task Force decided to work on a strategic plan that ensures our long term viability and sustainability and not to focus on a short term budget plan that addresses immediate budgetary concerns.

Lastly, the Task Force and campus community found this to be a very positive experience and we hope you find similar comfort in reading it. We look forward to working with you and the Steering Committee to address any questions that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Andy Lopez
On behalf of the UMM Strategic Positioning Task Force