Faculty and Staff:

The Strategic Planning Committee has posted the Strategic Plan that we have all worked on for the past year.

We were determined to formulate a plan that we all helped to put together. We were determined to formulate a plan that truly reflected our institutional community and not just a committee. We were determined to have a plan that would be in the forefront of all we do.

The process has involved countless meetings, and I want to thank all of you for your generous giving of time and energy in all the phases of development and especially the members of the committee who have given of their time and energy to this process.

The process has had intense discussions and a thorough analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the institution.

What has emerged from our collective efforts is a document that outlines our Vision for the Future and presents in a very real way a road map that will lead us to not only a better place but a special place, a special learning community.

The challenge was and is to create a planning document that is useful to all of us, that is relevant to all of us, that is meaningful to all of us.

The committee reviewed over 240 activities that were proposed by 35 departments and units. There are some great ideas and the committee wants to complement each of you for the thought and work put in on those ideas. The committee rated them, discussed them and we are forwarding 84 activities to the President for implementation consideration. The activities are on two levels: the college wide activities and those activities that are department focused.

We are recommending to the President that 4 areas be given special emphasis in the implementation phase for the first two year period,

Those areas are:

1. New strategies for the continued development of recruitment, retention and collaboration with the community colleges.
2. New marketing strategies for the institution and departments.
3. New strategies for the development of our institutional environment.
4. New and vibrant strategies from an innovative ideas think tank.

The committee will ask the President to appoint a task force in each of these areas. These task forces will have specific charges and each will bring more experience, diversity of thought and focused energy to each of these emphasis areas.
We are now moving to the implementation phase of the plan. The committee is going to study the implementation process over the summer and have recommendations for your review at the beginning of the fall semester.

We will have a lot of activity in the fall that is going to be exciting and I hope that everyone catches the spirit of 2011 as we start taking those steps toward our collective vision. I hope that each of you will come back in the fall excited about the prospect of starting the building process.

George Watson