

Academic Strategic Planning Steering Committee (ASP) Newsletter

SEP 21, 2009 UPDATE



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Montana
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ASP Steering Committee

CAROL BREWER, CHAIR
College of Arts and Sciences
Carol.Brewer@umontana.edu

BARRY BROWN
Mansfield Library

BLAKELY BROWN
Health and Human Performance

PERRY BROWN
Graduate School

RAY CARLISLE
TRIO Student Support

SARAH CULLISON
Graduate Student

REED HUMPHREY
Physical Therapy

Stephen Kalm
Music

Andrew King-Ries
Law

Peggy Kuhr
School of Journalism

Mark Medvetz
College of Technology

Jakki Mohr
Management

Sean Morrison
Undergraduate Student

Bill Muse
Planning, Budget and Analysis

Andrew Ware
Physics and Astronomy

Your Feedback is Needed on the Draft of the Academic Strategic Plan

The Academic Strategic Planning Committee was convened at the end of Spring 2008, and charged with developing, in collaboration with the campus community, an up-to-date and ambitious Academic Strategic Plan (ASP) to serve as a decision-making guide over the next five years. When completed, the plan should help us focus resources and energy on key issues, provide a solid foundation for our upcoming accreditation visit, and, most importantly, help us build an even more effective university. The Academic Strategic Planning Committee has completed a draft Academic Strategic Plan, and we need your feedback. The plan has six strategic initiatives that were selected based on feedback the committee received through the town hall process last spring semester. For each of these (again based on the feedback we received), the committee has identified a number of goals and example implementation recommendations. Many of them build on work already underway. An abridged outline of the plan is presented in the following pages of this newsletter. You can find a more detailed draft of the plan under the "Interim Reports" heading at <http://www.umt.edu/asp/newsletters.html>.

We need your feedback to finalize the Academic Strategic Plan. There are several ways you can provide comments. You can send your comments directly to me (carol.brewer@umontana.edu) or to any member of the committee. You also can join the discussion on the ASP blog at <http://blog.umt.edu/asp/>. Finally you can participate in a town hall meeting we will hold on Thursday, October 1, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in GBB123.

A strategic plan is only effective if it is based upon the collective thinking of the organization, so I hope each of you will take the time to weigh in. The ASP Committee looks forward to your feedback and we hope to see you at the town hall meeting.

-- Carol Brewer, ASP Chair --

Timeline for Completing the Academic Strategic Plan

September - October 15	Open Comment Period
October 1, 3:00 – 5:00 pm, GBB 123	Town Hall Meeting
Early October	Meet with Faculty, Staff, and Student Senates to answer questions and request endorsement
October 15 – 30	Refine and finalize ASP
November	Provost presents ASP to Board of Regents

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND GOALS
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA**
Abridged Version

Read the complete version at <http://www.umt.edu/asp/newsletters.html> under the
“Interim Reports” heading

FIRST INITIATIVE – Cultivate Learning and Discovery - Undergraduate Education

Goal 1 - Create a “College of Discovery” to offer a distinctive first year curriculum to all incoming students focused around “Big Questions” that address challenges of the 21st century. This first year will be followed by invigorated major courses of study that link learning and discovery.

Goal 2 – Fully integrate the College of Technology into the fabric of UM.

Goal 3 - Improve undergraduate advising at all levels.

SECOND INITIATIVE - Cultivate Learning and Discovery - Graduate Level

Goal 1 – Enhance graduate education, spanning research and professional programs, to transform the intellectual atmosphere at UM and create significant cultural and economic impacts in Montana.

Goal 2 - Create a stimulating and supportive environment for graduate students that facilitates learning and positive outcomes for Montana.

Goal 3 - Increase the proportion of graduate students enrolled to between 25-30% of all students at UM.

Goal 4 - Increase Regional, National and International Awareness of UM graduate programs.

THIRD INITIATIVE - Create a Coherent Vision for Research and Creative Scholarship

Goal 1 - Work with the Research Office to implement a planning process to chart a coherent vision for research and creative activity across all Colleges and Professional Schools, and to identify and build areas of distinction.

Goal 2 - Build and maintain appropriate infrastructure and resources to support and foster research and creative activity.

Goal 3 – Transform discovery into application in the service of society and to stimulate the Montana economy.

Goal 4 - Support research, scholarship, and creative activities across the natural and exact sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities, and enhance opportunities for interdisciplinary connections.

FOURTH INITIATIVE - Build Community through Engagement and Outreach

Goal 1 - Expand the array of educational programs relevant to traditional and nontraditional students, professionals, and the general workforce – in Montana’s urban and rural areas and beyond - by enhancing effective access to UM (including COT) courses.

Goal 2 - Respond to the growth in demand for educational opportunities for adult learners, including returning veterans, displaced workers, professionals seeking additional training, and older adults.

Goal 3 - Enhance outreach and continue to expand partnerships with the K-12 sector to develop concurrent programs and to improve continuation rates of Montana high school graduates.

Goal 4 - Develop an Academic Affairs communications and outreach plan that enables UM’s Colleges and Professional Schools to better tell our story, both within our campuses and beyond.

FIFTH INITIATIVE - Embrace Diversity and Global Engagement

Goal 1 - Provide a dynamic educational environment by respecting, welcoming, encouraging and celebrating diversity in all its forms.

Goal 2 - Ensure access for American Indians and foster the preservation of the cultural integrity of American Indians.

Goal 3 - Correct inequities that persist from the historical exclusion of underrepresented populations.

Goal 4 - Enhance international learning and research opportunities for faculty and students.

SIXTH INITIATIVE - Improve the Workplace Environment

Goal 1 - Improve the work-life quality of the faculty and staff in Academic Affairs.

Goal 2 - Create a campus climate that actively supports sustainability, including environmental responsibility, sustainable operations, and stewardship in our community.

Goal 3 - Maximize technological innovations.