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DATE: Nov 2, 2009
TO: Nancy Hinman, Chair Faculty Senate
FROM: Carol Brewer, Chair ASP Committee
RE: Academic Strategic Plan

Attached please find the Academic Strategic Plan that was delivered to Provost Engstrom on Oct 30. On behalf of the ASP Committee, I extend my thanks to you and to the Faculty Senate for the constructive dialog and feedback that has been provided to the Committee and to the planning process. With this communication I would like to apprise you and the Senate of the refinements that were made to enhance the plan based on the feedback we received over the last month.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Key Updates to the ASP

Two threads of comments were widespread from the campus community, and based on these recommendations and comments, the committee made modifications in the preamble section of the plan where our core values are reflected.

- 1) Respecting governance and approval processes extant at UM: The ASP Committee added a short paragraph on page 3 stating that implementation committees must work with appropriate governance bodies such as the Faculty, Student, and Staff Senates, the UM Administration, the MUS Board of Regents, and others as needed.
- 2) Acknowledging that a critical activity of this university is assuring proficiency in reading, writing, and critical thinking: The ASP Committee has added achieving these proficiencies into the aspiration statement on page 4 of the plan.

The other notable areas of the plan that have been updated include:

- 1) recommending that UM has a clear schedule for assessing the extent to which general education is meeting its goals (Initiative 1)
- 2) specifying the other strategic plans related to Academic Affairs that are currently in place and recommending coordination with them (these recommendations occur in several places in the document) during implementation
- 3) changing the recommendation in Initiative 6 from "implementing a laptop ownership program" to "implementing a personal technology ownership program". This change will provide flexibility as technology changes over the next years, and addresses that issue that if such technology is required, students will be able to obtain it with financial aid and scholarship funds.