Dear Campus Community:

I write to provide my preliminary recommendations, University of Montana Strategy for Distinction.

These recommendations grow out of a two-year long consultative process. The University Planning Committee, the Strategic Planning Coordinating Council, the Academic Programs and Administrative Services Prioritization Task Force, and other campus bodies have gathered and analyzed input to not only understand our current context but also shape our future. Our shared governance groups have served on these bodies, providing valuable input and perspective, and many from our wider community have contributed their insight. Our campus community’s collective work has been deliberate, consultative, and thoughtful.

While as a campus community we have exciting future work ahead, we also must make difficult decisions. We cannot continue to do everything we do now and do it well. This means better aligning, focusing, and prioritizing what we can do best, and curtailing or discontinuing what we cannot. Even as we face these transitions, we will remain focused on our students, providing them with clear learning pathways to graduation and the support they need.

The recommendations in this draft report are preliminary, and I look forward to input and feedback from our community.

Please plan to learn about and provide feedback on these draft recommendations at the following sessions. You also can [provide feedback online](https://umt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eeqkmppXE7OO11P).

* April 17, 3:00 PM, in the Music Recital Hall: I will present my preliminary recommendations for UM’s future at a special session of Faculty Senate.
* April 20, 4:00 PM, in SS 352: I and members of the UPC will host a campus forum for all employees. I will provide an overview of the process and my preliminary recommendations.
* April 24 and 26, 3:00 PM, in SS 352:  Faculty Senate will host listening sessions open to all faculty and staff. I encourage people to provide feedback at these sessions.

Much work remains – to not only refine these recommendations, but also to build detailed plans to implement changes over the coming months and years in a way that supports our students’ success. What will emerge from this work, however, is a stronger, more vibrant university positioned to grow in key areas of strength that are vital for our students and the communities that we serve.

Please visit [www.umt.edu/president](http://www.umt.edu/president) where you will find the draft recommendations, links to videos describing the University Planning Committee’s process, access to an interactive tool for viewing the UPC data by program, and a video message to students.

I thank the many people who have worked tirelessly over the past two years to help get us to this important moment.

Seth