

To the campus community,

I hope the spring semester is off to an excellent start for you and that you are settling into the rhythms of a new term. With most of the start-of-term activities now behind us, I want to provide another update on Academic Renewal. As Academic Renewal moves into the spring semester, there are three parallel processes underway: 1) The continuation of the college and school structure conversations; 2) the development of a Percentage of Effort (POE) policy and procedures; and 3) the Spring Phase discussions focused on curricular innovation, collaboration across colleges, and interdisciplinary programs.

We have posted an Academic Renewal Update to the [Provost's Initiative webpage](#). The update includes a timeline and next steps for each of the three processes. You can also find the Request to Plan (RTP) recently submitted to OCHE and other documents related to Renewal on the webpage.

Over 300 faculty and staff helped to launch the Spring Phase discussions in meetings over the past two weeks in each of the academic colleges. Those conversations focused on how UM can create an environment that supports the development and sustainability of curricular innovation, collaboration across colleges, and interdisciplinary programs. We will continue to consider and refine the ideas discussed in those meetings in all-campus workshops next week. I invite you to join us for one of those sessions:

Tuesday, January 31	3:00-4:30 p.m.	Gilkey 105
Wednesday, February 1	8:30-10:00 a.m.	Gilkey 105
Thursday, February 2	1:00-2:30 p.m.	Gilkey 105

Thank you for your continued partnership in this process and thank you for the many things you do for the university, for your colleagues, and especially for our students.

Pardis Mahdavi, Provost and Executive Vice President