Strategic Planning Process, November 2012–January 2013

Overview

The Preliminary Framework for the Strategic Plan was distributed to the Brandeis community on October 10, 2012. Members of the community have provided illuminating and helpful comments on the framework in numerous ways:

- Feedback Sessions
- Student Town Hall
- Formal statements from the Division Councils and the Deans
- Statements from the Strategic Planning Task Force Chairs
- Letters from departments and individuals

The next phase is for the Strategic Planning Steering Committee (SPSC) to draw on this input to produce a Draft Strategic Plan. The process will continue to be an inclusive one, drawing upon the collective wisdom of the community and remaining accountable to the leadership and governance bodies of the University. It will advance as follows:

- President Fred Lawrence will continue to provide overall direction. His perspective is informed by input from the Trustees, the SPSC, and the faculty, as well as comments from alumni, students, and staff.

- The SPSC, chaired by Provost Steve Goldstein, will continue to oversee the process, reviewing all input, honing the strategic priorities and goals, and providing oversight for drafting of the plan.

- Writing groups, made up of SPSC faculty and deans, are crafting the language of the draft plan. Each writing group will focus on a particular strategic direction, articulating a rationale for it and defining specific objectives, along with actions to realize those objectives. Professor Anita Hill is serving as coordinator and resource for the writing groups.

- The writing groups will consult with colleagues among the faculty, administration, and staff and with students in producing a draft. There will be discussion at the December 6 faculty meeting, and standing committees and bodies will review the draft plan. After further revision by the writing groups and review by the SPSC, the draft plan will be released to the entire University community.

- The Strategic Planning Financial Task Force will provide guidance regarding the financial implications of the draft plan.

- The Board of Trustees will continue to be integrally involved in developing the draft plan, individually and through the Executive Committee and the Board as a whole.
The Process

- The writing groups convene, consult with colleagues, and produce initial drafts.

- The Strategic Planning Financial Task Force (SPFTF) meets to discuss financial assumptions and implications of the plan and to draft a financial case for the plan.

- The SPSC reviews the emerging draft plan.

- The draft plan is discussed in key governance bodies, including the UAC, the Department Chairs Meeting, and the Faculty Meeting.

- The draft plan is further revised by the writing groups for approval by the SPSC.

- Once the draft plan is approved, the SPSC releases it to the entire community for review and comment.

- After hearing from the community, the writing groups render the draft plan into a provisional version of the final plan.

- The Faculty Senate reviews the provisional version of the final plan.

- The writing groups make any necessary revisions to the plan and present it to the SPSC for its approval.

- The SPSC submits the final plan to President Lawrence, who presents it to the Board of Trustees for approval

Note: Trustees on the SPSC will be fully involved in the ongoing process, and the Executive Committee and full Board of Trustees will be engaged as materials reach various stages of development through the process.