

FAQs: Strategic Planning Implementation Process

1. Who was involved in generating the strategic goal plans?

The plans most recently submitted in the implementation phase of the University Strategic Plan are the result of a long strategic planning process that began with the formation of a representative task force with 20-plus members, and “big, bold ideas” that were submitted by the University community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni/ae, and the Board of Trustees.

- June-December 2013: New Working Groups were organized to create plans to address each strategic goal area. More than 100 participants from throughout the University participated in this creative endeavor, and 22 plans were submitted for consideration.
- Jan 2014 -- Present: The plans were reviewed and prioritized by the Working Group leaders and the deans, then processed as part of a comprehensive due diligence effort to examine feasibility, revenue, cost savings, interprofessional collaborative relationships, or potential for other benefits to the University. Seven plans have been advanced to an initial funding phase.

2. What process of review did the plans go through, and who was involved in the decision making?

Plans went through an initial review by the Working Groups responsible for them, then were sent to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee (“Committee”) for further review. The Committee rank ordered the plans based on several criteria, including feasibility, adherence to the major goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, competitive urgency, financial soundness and non-tuition revenue potential. Through a process of gathering and compiling important details involved in the plan objectives, the Committee then made recommendations for funding to the University’s senior administration.

3. Why was a plan funded that was not generated by the Working Groups?

A 23rd plan for veterinary care in the Los Angeles area, not submitted in the original process, was generated later by the Finance Working group in response to an emergent opportunity. This group recognized that one of our Colleges (CVM) had a relevant strategic initiative that was overlooked by the Patient-Care working group due to their focus on human health care, and corrected that oversight.

4. What will happen to the plans that weren’t funded yet?

Unfunded plans are still included in the rank ordering/prioritization process, and will continue to be reviewed and considered, modified, consolidated, or eliminated as additional Strategic Planning or other funding becomes available, for example, through reallocation of existing budgets or capital campaign initiatives.

5. Is this process closed now? What about new ideas?

The Strategic Planning process is fluid and evergreen. New ideas/recast plans are welcome and encouraged, and will follow a similar process of evaluation and rank ordering as did this initial wave of plans. A process for submission of new ideas is currently in development and will be communicated soon.