March 17, 2017

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

On behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC), we write to say thank you to all of the members of our community who contributed to our information-gathering activities last month, as well as the online survey, and to keep you up to date with where we are in the process.

We are grateful to everyone who participated in the small group interviews, open forums, and idea wall activities on Feb. 9-10, as well as to all who completed the online survey. We were pleased with the levels of participation among faculty, staff and students:

- Approximately 140 faculty, staff, and students participated in small group interviews, and more than 65 people attended our three all-campus forums
- There were nearly 600 notes submitted across our seven idea walls—a great turn-out (thanks especially to the residence halls staff for their assistance!)
- Approximately 620 people on campus participated in the online survey—55% of all faculty, 38% of all staff and administrators, and 17.9% of all students; these participation rates compare very well with Keeling and Associates’ (K&A) experience on other campuses
- More than 600 members of the extended Luther community—alumni, parents, emeriti, and members of the Board of Regents—completed the online survey, as well

The input collected through these most recent activities complement and add to the data accumulated through the forums and activities conducted last fall, and they provide a wealth of information that the SPC will use to inform our deliberations about the strategic plan.

K&A has prepared summaries from their February visit, which are now available for your review on the strategic planning website. Look for three separate documents on the February Visit Summaries page: the addendum to the planning theme summary; the February idea wall summary, and a summary of the session the SPC held with the Board of Regents on Feb. 11.

The SPC is convening regularly to discuss not only what we are learning but also aspirations for the next 3-5 years. In the coming weeks, we will receive and share summaries from both the internal (campus) and external (alumni, etc.) surveys. In mid-April, K&A will return to campus to meet with the SPC to review the comprehensive set of findings. Following the April visit, the SPC will host opportunities for members of the campus community to reflect and provide feedback on the findings, as well as to help inform our directions as we develop priorities, goals, and objectives in preparation for the SPC’s strategic planning retreat in late May.

We want to remind you of two upcoming components of this process where your input will be sought and valued:
• First, the retreat in late May is the time when we will reach consensus on draft goals and objectives for the new plan. It’s important that we hear from you before that retreat about aspirations and goals that you hope will be included. Over the summer, the SPC will then compose a draft document to reflect that consensus.

• Second, the draft document of goals and objectives will be shared with the community in late summer; again, your feedback will be important. Early in the fall semester, the SPC will host opportunities for members of the campus community to offer input and feedback that will inform the preparation of the final draft of the strategic plan. This final draft document will then be presented to the Board of Regents for approval at their October meeting.

As the strategic planning process continues to unfold, please know that the SPC remains available to the campus for feedback and consultation. You may contact the co-chairs or members of the SPC at any time, and please visit the strategic planning website for additional updates, summaries, and to share your thoughts via our online form.

Sincerely,

Brad Chamberlain and Terry Sparkes
Co-Chairs, Strategic Planning Committee