January 24, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

Five years ago we launched the University of Manitoba’s Strategic Planning Framework. Since its inception this document has served us well, providing valuable guidance and direction. A focused approach allowed us to be strategic in our efforts and to build on existing strengths and develop new areas of excellence.

As we near the end of the five-year timeframe for the existing framework, it is time to develop an updated plan to take us through the next five years; one that will accurately reflect how far we’ve come, and where we’re headed. Since its introduction in 2009, our framework has helped focus our efforts and guide us towards significant accomplishments in pursuing its priorities. Details on many of these initiatives may be found in the summary progress report, found at the link below.

The existing Strategic Planning Framework was a tool that helped effectively direct these and other efforts in our pursuit of excellence. It is my expectation that an updated framework will be a similarly effective tool for us; though it will not seek to abandon what has worked so successfully in the recent past, it should build on our accomplishments, and be innovative in guiding our future efforts.

Every day I am impressed by the spirit that exists at the University of Manitoba, and I am reminded of the passion of our people to blaze new trails and innovate in their work. For this reason, I believe a broad consultation with our internal community is crucial to the process of renewing this framework.

I have asked Dr. Joanne Keselman, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost, to lead this process, which has begun with the formation of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). The committee will be responsible for developing, through a consultative process, an updated plan for consideration by the University of Manitoba’s Senate and Board of Governors. The opportunities for our broader university community to contribute to the process will be communicated by the committee in the coming weeks, and updates on the progress of the committee will be provided as we seek to establish a new Strategic Planning Framework for 2014-2019. To review the committee membership, please see below.

This consultative process will establish a framework upon which we will continue to build on our university’s success. It will guide our collective direction and inform our individual actions. It will aim to position us front and centre among the very best universities in Canada, and in our world. Let’s continue to reach for greatness and work together as a community to achieve it.

Strategic Planning Committee

Chair – Joanne Keselman, Vice-President (Academic) and Provost
Vice-Chair – Digvir Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International)

From the Board of Governors (BOG)
Patricia Bovey, BOG Chair
Michael Robertson, BOG Vice-Chair
Monika Wetzel, GSA President

From Senate
John Anderson, Professor and Head, Computer Science, Faculty of Science
Jonathan Beddoes, Professor, Mechanical Engineering and Dean, Faculty of Engineering
Joanne Embree, Professor, Medical Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine
Jeffery Taylor, Professor, History and Dean, Faculty of Arts
Al Turnbull, UMSU President

From Faculty at Large
Annemieke Farenhorst, Professor of Soil Science, Faculty Agricultural and Food Sciences
Gordon Fitzell, Associate Professor, Desautels Faculty of Music
Sandy Hershcovis, Associate Professor and Head, Business Administration, I.H. Asper School of Business
Feiyue Wang, Professor, Environment and Geography, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources
David Watt, Associate Professor, English, Film and Theatre, Faculty of Arts
Roberta Woodgate, Professor, Faculty of Nursing

From Support Staff
Brendan Hughes, Executive Director, Student Engagement
Deborah Young, Executive Lead, Indigenous Achievement
Sam Vagianos, Business Manager, Dentistry

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John Kearsey, Vice-President (External)
Paul Kochan, Vice-President (Administration)

Resource (non-voting)
Erik Athavale, Associate Director (Client Relations), Marketing Communications Office
Kerry McQuarrie Smith, Director, Office of the President
Thelma Lussier, Executive Director, Office of Institutional Analysis

Assistant to the Committee
Kathleen Legris, Academic Analyst, Provost