

STRATEGIC PLAN

OCTOBER 2015

4 THEMES ARE FY16 FOCUS

Four themes will be the focus as the final year of the 2011-2016 UMB strategic plan takes shape. The Executive Implementation Committee (EIC), a group that includes the school deans and University vice presidents as well as leaders from various campus administrative units, recently approved the emphasis on the four areas, and the \$550,000 in funding attached to two of them.

The “excel at interdisciplinary research” theme will proceed with its goal to inform the development of knowledge, public policy, and human services as the four multi-school research teams it originally funded will be finishing their projects with the intention of seeking outside sponsor support to continue their research. Theme leaders E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, and Mark Reynolds, DDS, PhD, MA, deans of the medical and dental schools, respectively, will evaluate the value of further enhancing interschool collaborative teams with University-directed seed funds to encourage more cross-school research projects.

The “excel at interprofessional education” theme awarded five seed grants in fiscal year 2015. In FY16, the IPE work group will develop a mechanism to disseminate results of those five projects and offer faculty development opportunities, including competitive faculty awards to expand their IPE/interprofessional care knowledge and skills.

The other two themes requested funding that was approved by the EIC for FY16.

The “drive economic development” theme received \$50,000 to create 10 entrepreneurial fellowships. The 10 UMB students will be awarded paid fellowships to assist UMB faculty in developing their inventions. The students will assist in evaluating technologies, market opportunities, funding sources, and regulatory and legal issues.

“We envision the students working in interdisciplinary teams in close collaboration with the staff of UM Ventures, which is UMB’s technology transfer group,” says James L. Hughes, MBA, chief enterprise and economic development officer and vice president at UMB and director of UM Ventures. “In addition to assisting UMB in bringing new technologies to market, the students will gain hands-on, real-world experience in commercializing research discoveries.”



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND

STRATEGIC 2011-2016 PLAN

REDEFINING COLLABORATION

The last of the four approved themes for FY16 is “achieve pre-eminence as an innovator,” which was awarded \$500,000 to fully integrate the University of Maryland Medical System (UMMS) information systems with UMB’s Research HARBOR (Helping Advance Research By Organizing Resources). This will take place through a newly formed unit called the Informatics Innovation Incubator (I³), led by J. Kathleen “Kate” Tracy, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the School of Medicine and one of the driving forces behind the creation of the Research HARBOR. Affiliation with the I³ will be open to members of all UMB schools.

“By making these data sets available to University researchers, we are able to study population health and answer questions about clinical care and disease, all the while extending the University’s pre-eminence as an innovator,” says Karen D. Matthews, MPA, director of planning and program development at UMB.

Matthews is quick to point out that just because only two themes were awarded funding for FY16 doesn’t mean strategic plan funding has been cut back.

“Several tactics are continuing to receive recurring funds to support the University’s strategic goals,” she says. “Besides the \$550,000, which the EIC allocated in its last meeting to FY16 initiatives, \$1.6 million of recurring funds also are allocated to support previously approved goals with long-term initiatives associated with them. So in essence, \$2,150,000 is this year’s investment in the plan. Over the five-year period since the plan’s inception, \$7,550,000 of new money has been allocated to strategic priorities.”

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The EIC is excited by the prospect of what FY16 holds for the strategic plan, while celebrating many previous successes. “The EIC is quite happy with the progress it has made over this plan’s cycle,” Matthews says. “Perhaps the most significant outcome of this process is our collaborative efforts across all University schools to make decisions together to benefit the University as a whole.”

This team approach will carry over into the University’s 2017-2022 strategic planning process. Work for this will get underway in January 2016 with a start date of July 2016 for the next five-year cycle.

“We envision this planning process will be shorter than the previous plan cycle mainly due to the University’s self-study review as part of the Middle States decennial reaccreditation

process,” says Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MPA, chief accountability officer, vice president for operations and planning, and co-chair of the Middle States steering committee. He succeeded Peter Gilbert as the University’s strategic plan leader.

“We still plan to provide opportunities for the University community to give their feedback and to communicate on progress along the way.”

Read more about the *four themes* and the *overall strategic plan*.

— Chris Zang

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