

Request for Continued Discussion of Draft Strategic Plan

Dear Member of the UNE Community:

Over the past year, it has been very rewarding to witness the way our community has worked together to design UNE's new strategic plan. This effort has demonstrated the inclusivity and engagement of our community, with individuals representing each of our various constituent groups making important contributions along the way. We have worked steadily throughout the year and even maintained our momentum over the summer, which would not have happened at many institutions. Clearly reflected in this work has been our shared commitment to charting a course that will allow UNE to achieve even greater things. Our work also demonstrates just how focused we all are on our primary reason for existing, which is, of course, to ensure the success of our students.

As I discussed at the Fall Assembly, the draft culmination of this work -- *Charting Our Future: 2018–2023* -- articulates our collective mission, vision, and core values. It describes six high-level priorities along with accompanying goals and initiatives. This document is the product of a year-long iterative effort that has included many town hall meetings, working groups, Strategic Planning Coordinating Committee retreats and unit meetings, and other events. It has been discussed at the University Council retreat, as well as at the Provost's retreat, college-level retreats and department meetings, and at Professional Staff Assembly meetings. It has also been informed by the dozens of thoughtful emails submitted by individuals from across our community.

At this point, we would like to encourage continued discussion of the draft plan, both through face-to-face meetings and through email. Because not everyone can attend every campus meeting, we will continue to encourage feedback via email. Now that we have a draft of the plan, these messages have become more clearly focused and are as important as ever in the process.

Hopefully you've had time by now to review the draft and discuss it with colleagues. We are especially interested in either of two kinds of feedback: first, comments and edits to the current draft itself; and second, suggestions that go beyond the plan per se and represent more specific and granular implementation strategies and action steps. The latter may not end up in the final version of the plan itself, but it may become part of a more detailed Implementation Plan that will follow closely on the heels of the Strategic Plan.

To gather this valuable feedback, we will be holding two more town hall meetings: the first on Wednesday, September 26, at 1 p.m. on the Portland Campus (WCHP Lecture Hall) and the

second on Thursday, September 27, at 11 a.m. on the Biddeford Campus (Alfond Forum 230). These meetings will be recorded so that those who cannot attend may tune in later, and send their feedback to strategic@une.edu.

Please do not hesitate to send us your ideas for implementation, quick wins, priorities, or thoughts on the mission, vision, or core values. The plan will serve as the basis of our future work together, and your input is critical.

Warm regards,

James

