

REVISED September 21, 2005

MEMO TO: Linda Perkowski, Associate Dean, Medical School- Twin Cities
Debra Olson, Associate Dean, School of Public Health
Connie Delaney, Dean, School of Nursing
Jane Miller, Director, Teaching and Learning Initiatives and IERC, AHC
Billie Wahlstrom, Vice Provost, Distributed Education & Instructional Technology
Linda Watson, Director, Health Science Libraries
Kristin Janke, Assistant Dean, Educational Development, College of Pharmacy
Rob Sweet, Assistant Professor, Medical School- Twin Cities
Don Connelly, Professor, Medical School- Twin Cities
Linda Jorn, Director, Digital Media Center
Mark Summers, Info Tech Manager, School of Medicine- Duluth
Judith Buchanan, Associate Dean, School of Dentistry
John Fetrow, Professor, Veterinary Population Medicine
Jennifer Cieslak, Special Assistant to the SVP for Health Sciences
Janet Shanedling, Director, Educational Development and EduTechComm, AHC
Mark Engebretson, Electronic Communications Manager, AHC

FROM: Frank B. Cerra, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

RE: AHC Strategic Positioning Task Force on Knowledge Management Technology

Thank you for your willingness to serve on the AHC Strategic Positioning Task Force on Knowledge Management Technology. The University's Strategic Positioning process presents a remarkable opportunity for the University and the Academic Health Center to take steps to transform itself into a top three public research institution. The four AHC Task Forces, of which Knowledge Management Technology is one, build upon the AHC strategic plan and represent the next key steps for us to take. As you pursue your charge, I ask that you engage in bold and visionary thinking and identify strategies that will propel us forward.

President Bruininks has asked that each strategic positioning task force consider the following strategic action areas that were identified in the University's strategic plan, *Transforming the University of Minnesota*.

- Recruit, nurture, challenge, and educate outstanding students who are bright, curious and highly motivated.
- Recruit, mentor, reward and retain world-class faculty and staff who are innovative, energetic, and dedicated to the highest standards of excellence.
- Promote an effective organizational culture that is committed to excellence and responsive to change.
- Exercise responsible stewardship by setting priorities and enhancing and effectively utilizing resources and infrastructure.

- Communicate clearly and credibly with all of our constituencies and practice public engagement responsive to the public good.

During the development of the University's strategic positioning plan, certain common themes have been identified that informed the goal to become one of the top three public research institutions in the world. These themes are important to keep in mind as we begin our work. The themes are:

- Strong academic programs and leadership.
- Improved access to success for students demonstrating that a better education leads directly to better results.
- Excellence in research.
- Lowered economic costs through improved services and strengthened core investments.
- Greater alignment across all programs and services.

As you pursue your work, please also keep in mind the following questions:

- What are the strategic directions that will move us toward being a top 3 public research institution?
- What are the areas of excellence and/or comparative advantage?
- What are the actions recommended to achieve these directions, including opportunities for reallocation of resources?
- What are the measures of progress and expected impact?
- What are the incentives necessary to achieve success?
- What are the barriers to success? What strategies exist to overcome the barriers?

The Task Force Charge:

Health professional education and care delivery are undergoing rapid electronification. This transformation is accompanied by a shift from a teaching to a learning model in education and closer coupling of health professional education and care delivery. These changes necessitate envisioning how, over the next five years, we will use electronic technology in education and care delivery to provide outstanding and cutting-edge academic programs and care.

The task force should develop a Knowledge Management Technology Plan for the Academic Health Center. The plan should:

- 1.) Define the use of knowledge management technology in the education and training of health professionals and for interprofessional education.

- 2.) Define the competencies of health professional students, faculty and staff for the use of knowledge management technology.
- 3.) Define the knowledge management technology needs in teaching and learning for the Academic Health Center for the next five years, including distance education, life-long learning, simulation, virtual and game-technology, electronification of personal health information, health records, and care delivery.
- 4.) Define the technical infrastructure necessary to support knowledge management technology and the interface between AHC Information Systems and the University's Office of Information Technology for the support of learning opportunities.
- 5.) Develop a plan for the acquisition and implementation of the knowledge management technology.
- 6.) Develop a short term and long term, high level, financial needs assessment for the knowledge management technology plan.

Task Force Retreat:

I encourage you to attend the strategic positioning task force retreat and work session on Friday, September 16, 2005 at the North Star Ballroom in the St. Paul Student Center. This program is hosted by the Office of the President and is intended for all strategic positioning task forces. Task force co-chairs are asked to attend from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Task force members are asked to attend from 1:00 – 5:00 pm.

Deliverables:

The task force's final report is due by **May 1, 2006**. I would ask that you develop a detailed work plan for the task force, which I can review with you by **late October**. The plan should include a plan for receiving ideas and feedback from members of the AHC community and other constituencies and a plan for consultation.

I would like to receive regular reports on the work of the task forces. We may want to consider an interim report for purposes of soliciting feedback. We will decide this as we go forward.

Resources:

There are a number of resources available to you as you pursue your charge. These include the Resource Alignment Team, a toolkit of documents and templates, and the professional staff of

University Relations appointed to facilitate internal and external communication of progress through the strategic positioning process. The Resource Alignment Team is a consulting group charged with providing support to all task forces in the areas of cross-functional alignment, change management, and subject matter expertise as needed. Support is also available from the Academic Health Center Steering Committee.

Jennifer Cieslak has been appointed Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President and will manage and coordinate the strategic positioning process for me. Jennifer will work closely with task force staff and will be able to help task force co chairs access needed support and assistance. Jennifer may be reached at 612-624-4134 or jcieslak@umn.edu.

Thank you for your willingness to assume this important role on behalf of the University community. Your participation and commitment to this work is vital to the successful implementation of the strategic positioning recommendations and to achieving the goal of becoming one of the top three public research universities in the world.

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C: Robert H. Bruininks, President
Robert J. Jones, Senior Vice President, System Administration
E. Thomas Sullivan, Senior Vice President and Provost
Kathryn Brown, Vice President and Chief of Staff
AHC Deans