



Bowling Green State University

Office of the President
220 McFall Center
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0010
Phone: (419) 372-2211
Fax: (419) 372-6050

To: Members of the University Work Group

From: Sidney A. Ribeau, President

Date: September 18, 2007

Re: University Work Group

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sidney Ribeau".

In my State of the University Address on opening day, August 17, 2007, I presented several critical current and future issues which our great University must confront.

As a result of many variables, the University is facing a \$3 million deficit this budget year. Each division of the university is working earnestly to identify dollars to capture now and in the future to balance the budget. You should understand that the dollars captured will constitute a permanent reduction in resources.

Governor Strickland has appointed Eric Fingerhut as Chancellor of the Higher Education System of Ohio. In a recent address to State Public Higher Education Leaders, Chancellor Fingerhut notes that "differentiating the missions of our universities and building Centers of Excellence that are recognized across the globe is both an opportunity for our system to excel – and a necessity in today's world." This statement begs an additional, and perhaps more difficult question: What do we do as an institution that distinguishes us from our sister campuses and contributes to our national identity and reputation?

We are to address his questions in the Master Plan of BGSU; a draft is due to the Chancellor December 15, 2007 and a final copy is due March 2008.

We are challenged to balance our budget as we simultaneously identify the unique niche of BGSU for the future.

During the past few years, we have developed many documents to address certain areas of excellence in BGSU. Those include documents describing the First Year Experience at BGSU, The Academic Plan, and most recently a Strategic Positioning Group which developed a scenario for our future at BGSU. As you can see some of this work is already available to us. Our colleges each have programs of excellence and achievements as well as strategic plans.

Each of the division Vice Presidents is in the process of addressing the budget question at this time. Academic Affairs is in the process of working with the Deans to establish academic priorities. Your charge is to:

- pull the various documents together and establish a process for identification of priorities. Collegiate priorities will be infused into your work very close to the end of our time line.
- make recommendations for consultation across the many constituencies of the university.
- facilitate development of a draft for the Master Plan, due December 1, 2007.

Your service on this Task Force will end March 1, 2007. I appreciate your willingness to contribute to the immediate work that is vital to the future of Bowling Green State University.