



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

CORNELIUS KERWIN
PRESIDENT

March 6, 2009

TO: Campus Community
FROM: Neil Kerwin, President
SUBJECT: Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan

The American University Board of Trustees met on February 27, 2009, and took two significant actions that will set the course for the university's future.

First, they unanimously approved the budget for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. Second, they reviewed and “received with appreciation and encouragement” the implementation report for the first two years of our new strategic plan, which outlined priority objectives, action steps, and measures to monitor progress for each goal.

The approval of the budget and the review of the plan implementation were considered jointly because they were developed in close alignment. In fact, the budget proposal included a “crosswalk” that links significant budget investments by goal with priorities for the first two years of plan implementation. The university will spend more than \$40 million for implementation of new initiatives—in addition to internal reallocations—during these first two years, making a strong statement of our serious commitment to reach ambitious goals. You will receive a summary of the approved budget and the crosswalk to the plan's goals under separate cover from vice president of finance and treasurer Don Myers next week.

Attached with this memo is the [implementation report](#) that the board received (my.american login required). It is the outcome of a transparent and collaborative process in which the university community and its leadership participated actively in making decisions about how we will proceed. I will stress here that the plan and its implementation will not be static; we will make necessary adjustments as conditions and opportunities change.

I want to express my gratitude to the committee and its leaders, chair Bill DeLone and vice chair Sarah Irvine Belson, for their extraordinary commitment to the task. I also want to thank the entire AU community for your participation and input.

Now the planning continues at the level of schools, colleges, and departments, with the development of their unit plans, which we expect to be completed in May.

Please share your thoughts and feedback with your dean, director, or vice president as we get down to the business of achieving our goals.