

Statement on strategic planning to assure student success

UM-Dearborn Chancellor Domenico Grasso

Without question, we are fortunate to be part of the University of Michigan family and proud to brandish the “block M.” We benefit from the Michigan brand and leveraging our existing relationships across the three campuses, which thrives on a balance of autonomy and cooperation.

It is important to note that all three campuses of the University of Michigan serve distinct populations and have different missions. The Dearborn campus reflects a broad and inclusive community of students of varying socioeconomic, racial, ethnic, religious, gender identification, sexual orientation and veteran-status diversity.

I believe it is critical that each university campus be responsible for identifying its own needs and priorities and creating their own financial path to acquire and deploy resources as they see fit. Our community is best positioned and wholeheartedly committed to developing our strategic plans and initiatives for our unique community.

UM-Dearborn values its independence as an institution. Not only does it engender a strong sense of institutional identity and pride, but it allows for tailored programs and policies.

We continue to focus and refine our approach to addressing student, faculty and staff opportunities for greater success. The Dearborn campus is well underway with our strategic planning efforts. I expect to have five working group plans soon after the first of the year.

More than 150 faculty members and staff members have begun working on the plan, which is centered on five areas with student experience and success at the top of the list. In fact, all five areas roll up to student success.

We recently completed an environmental analysis and it showed the need for a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan. The analysis will help inform decisions on a new budget model.

We are also currently in the search process for a vice provost for enrollment management. We are currently working on budget model that will better support student success and affordability.

The process engages the entire campus community and includes many opportunities for faculty, staff and students to participate. The activities include working group meetings, thought-leader sessions, open forums, focus groups and survey participation.

I have been discussing frequently the status and progress of our planning efforts with Mark and I am committed to exploring with him opportunities that would be mutually beneficial for both campuses and provide compelling reasons to invest in sustainable and consequential endeavors on our campus.