

I want to give you a brief report on the work of the SPC. I was hoping to have an information item ready for you today but we were unable to meet the deadline which was October 19.

The committee has met by Zoom twice this term, August 31 and October 13. Most of our discussions have been on whether to recommend a two-year extension of the U's 2025 Strategic Plan. That plan went into effect in January 2020 and it wraps up on December 31, 2024 – that will be five, full years. The COVID Pandemic started in March of 2020 and it had a dramatic impact on the University's operations for the rest of that spring 2020 semester and the entire 2020-21 AY. The following AY was also impacted by the Pandemic. We lost two years of normal operations. Based on the time it took to prepare the current 2025 plan, in order to prepare a 2030 Plan it will necessary to form a new campus-wide strategic planning committee very soon – so it can start work early next semester on a new plan that would launch in January 2025. All of the University's schools, colleges and units that prepared a 2025 plan would then have to prepare their own plans. I think it is fair to say that the sentiment on the SPC in late August was that UGA is not ready to engage in another round of planning and that we should put it off for two years, until 2026, to make up for the two years we lost to the Pandemic. The committee asked me to talk to the Office of the Provost and the

President's Office about the possibility of a two-year extension. I spoke with the Provost who then discussed the extension with the Deans and VPs who report to him, and I also talked to Dr. Nathan Moore in the President's Office. Support for the two-year extension is widespread. I had hoped the SPC would vote on the extension during its Zoom meeting on October 13 but we spent an hour discussing other issues and I was asked to once again talk the Provost's Office and the Office of the President about some general concerns – and I subsequently met with Dr. Alton Standifer and Dr. Nathan Moore on October 18 and I emailed my report of that meeting to the SPC on October 20 and simultaneously asked the committee to vote online – a qualtrics poll - to approve recommending the extension. Although a majority of the committee approved that recommendation it was pointed out that my request for online voting had not adhered to Robert's Rules. The committee is scheduled to meet again on Monday, November 13 and I very much hope that the committee will approve the recommendation in compliance with Robert's Rules at that meeting.