

Memorandum

To: Executive Committee of the University Council
From: David Shipley, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee
Re: Standing Committee Report and Information Item
Date: January 8, 2024

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) met by Zoom three times last semester; August 31, October 13 and November 13. Most of the committee's discussions were on whether to recommend a two-year extension of the University's 2025 Strategic Plan. The committee voted on November 13 to recommend an extension. Nine of the committee's ten members voted in favor of the extension, and there was one abstention. This recommendation is being presented to the Executive Committee as an information item. Here is a rationale for recommending the extension:

The University's 2025 Strategic 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 academic year (AY). The following AY was also impacted by the Pandemic.

UGA lost almost two years of normal operations due to the Pandemic. Based on the time it took to prepare the 2025 plan, the SPC noted that it would be necessary to form a new strategic planning committee this semester in order to draft a 2030 Strategic Plan that would launch in January 2025. All of the University's colleges and units that prepared their own 2025 plans would then have to prepare their own 2030 plans.

The general sentiment on the SPC is that UGA is not yet ready to engage in another round of long range, strategic planning. Accordingly, we should wait two years, until 2026, to make up for the years we lost to the Pandemic.

Please note that the committee asked me, in my capacity as committee chair, to talk to the Offices of the Provost and the President about recommending a two-year extension. I talked to the Provost who then discussed the extension with the Deans and VPs who report to him. I also talked to Dr. Nathan Moore in the President's Office. Support for recommending a two-year extension was widespread. I subsequently met with Dr. Alton Standifer from the Provost's Office and Dr. Moore on October 18 to discuss several questions that members of the SPC raised at a meeting on October 13. I emailed a report on that meeting to the committee on October 20, and then arranged for Drs. Moore and Standifer to meet with entire committee by Zoom on November 13. The vote to recommend the two-year extension was taken during the November 13 SPC meeting.

The 2025 Strategic Plan was presented to the Executive Committee and the University Council as an information item at meetings in September 2019. There was no voting. Accordingly, this recommendation to extend the current plan for two years is also being presented to the Executive Committee and then to University Council as an information item. President Morehead will have final approval of the committee's recommendation.