November 2026
2026-2031 Strategic planning process updates submitted to FS for distribution to faculty

The Strategic Planning Council (SPC) is meeting monthly to determine the metrics and process to be used to track progress on the 2026-2031 strategic plan. Two faculty senators are members of the committee (Deneen Long-White and Anita Brown); representatives from the Long Range Academic Planning Committee (LRAP), Emily Story, and the Faculty Financial Oversight Committee (FFOC), Tom Goyens, are attending in an observer capacity. The full membership and charge of the Strategic Planning Council (SPC) is available on the SU website. Committee proceedings and materials are not secret; attendees are encouraged to share information with relevant campus constituencies. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month.

The SU strategic plan has 4 pillars, broken down into 17 goals and 63 strategies. At present, each of the 6 campus divisions are completing worksheets (using templates established by the Offices of the President and Academic Affairs) to indicate what they are already doing, and what they plan to do, to advance the plan. Academic Affairs is just one of the 6 campus divisions and will need to condense information received from worksheets from all schools/colleges into one campus division worksheet and one division commitment sheet.

The divisional information will be used as the SPC determines recommendations to the President and Cabinet for 2 primary metrics per pillar. The intention is to select metrics that tell the story of SU: what we are doing and what our priorities are. Those metrics will be tracked and reported via an online, public-facing dashboard. The President's Office has selected the Elate platform to create this dashboard. Some metrics are all-but-decided (e.g., graduation rate, retention); others are to be determined. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the USM Board of Regents (BOR) require reporting of certain metrics and the MHEC has a 2026-2030 plan for higher education. The state expectations will necessarily influence which metrics are tracked.

Faculty representatives/observers on the SPC encourage the academic deans to make it clear to faculty how they may have input into the school/college plans, and they encourage faculty to share their thoughts about this process, in particular suggesting potential metrics to highlight.

- Academic deans are expected to submit their worksheets to the Interim Provost around December 10
- Campus division plans are expected to be available to SPC in early January
- President Lepre will be presenting preliminary metrics to Board of Regents February 5

The slide presentation from the 4 November SPC meeting is available.

This report respectfully submitted by the faculty SPC representatives/observers.