

**From:** faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 05, 2018 8:15 AM  
**To:** faculty-l <faculty-l@lists.uccs.edu>  
**Subject:** [faculty-l] Strategic Plan 2030 Discovery Phase Update

Dear Campus Community,

As you know, UCCS has embarked on a strategic planning process to manage our growth and plan for the University's future. Providing regular updates and transparency into this process is a key objective for me and the Cabinet members.

I am pleased to announce that we have completed the first step in this process: the initial campus Discovery phase, in which we gathered voices and built perspective from internal UCCS audiences. I am grateful to the faculty, staff, and students who shared their thoughts about what is important for the University. Next, we will collect feedback from our external audiences, including our alumni and our local Colorado Springs community. This collective input and insight are an essential part of the process to help us identify and synthesize key strategic themes. The Cabinet is working to develop specific and measurable strategies that tie these strategic themes to our vision.

The most common Discovery insights JERA Partnerships reported include:

- I. We have a great student body and a student-centric faculty & staff
- II. UCCS has infrastructure limitations and the need for a strategic growth plan
- III. We need more clarity around the role of research at the University
- IV. The generic higher education expectation for students to graduate in four years does not align with UCCS students' needs/wants
- V. Clarity is needed on the UCCS vision, as well as specific messaging on who we are and what we do
- VI. There is a tension between our culture and our desire/need for change
- VII. We collect a lot of data, but don't always know how to use it effectively
- VIII. UCCS needs to focus on student retention (particularly within key cohorts)
- IX. There is a perceived decrease nation-wide in the value of a university education

As soon as we have the Discovery transcripts to share with you, we will be posting them on the UCCS Strategic Plan webpage, so everyone can read the many views and ideas we have gathered so far. As we continue to shape the themes, there will be additional opportunities for input for our faculty, staff and students during the Spring semester. Please look for additional updates from me throughout the remainder of this important process.

Thank you for your dedication, engagement, and commitment to planning for the future of our University.

Respectfully,

Venkat Reddy  
Chancellor