Announcement Regarding SOAR Process
From Provost DiLorenzo and VP Brekke
July 20, 2015

To the campus community:

In a June 11th email to faculty (found at this link: June 11 Letter from the Provost) the Provost committed to meet with Deans, Task Forces, faculty members and the University Senate to explore how to best use the good work done to date on SOAR, while addressing some of the challenges and concerns that have been expressed. In the last month we have met with the SOAR Coordinating Committee, Task Force co-chairs, Vice Presidents, Deans, University and Staff Senate leaders, faculty and staff about the SOAR process. Deans have indicated to us that they have consulted with their chairs, authors and other faculty involved in SOAR concerning the process and its potential outcomes. Based on the feedback received and with the support of the Deans and VPs, we remain committed to the SOAR process. Going forward, the SOAR data collection and analysis for both academic and support programs will proceed as follows:

- Each college or support unit is asked to submit all completed program surveys and review information.
- Vice Presidents, Deans, Chairs and Directors are asked to utilize the data collected, coupled with other relevant information, when making resource and hiring decisions and for short and long-term strategic planning.
- Going forward, Task Force members will not be asked to review survey data. However, the rubrics they created will remain available as helpful tools, should the colleges and support units decide they are appropriate for their unit use.

Please let us emphasize again that the process is continuing to move forward. In fact, the steps described above will actually shorten the process for getting the survey responses and data back into the hands of Vice Presidents, Deans and Directors as soon as possible.

We want to acknowledge the significant efforts of the Coordinating Committee, Task Force members, co-chairs, and survey authors. They have worked hard and have focused closely on this process, and as a result we now have a broad set of data that will be extremely useful as we follow a data-driven decision-making process. In fact, several Deans and Vice Presidents have already met with the survey authors from their own areas to review the data, and are putting it to use.

We encourage Vice Presidents, Chairs, Deans and Directors to continue to utilize the data sets available through I-dashboards, along with other available data, to inform their discussions and planning. Our thanks again to everyone for your participation in this important step towards more data-based decision-making.

Thomas DiLorenzo and Alice Brekke