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Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 at 5:04 PM
To: The sswunc mailing list <sswunc@listserv.unc.edu>
Subject: Where are We and Where are We Going

Dear colleagues,

I pray that everyone is in a safe place and avoiding exposure to the weather. Please be careful this weekend.

As we wrap up a busy week, I want to check in with everyone. A question was posed to me this week. That question was: where are we, and where are we going? That same colleague shared the following: “We are doing a lot and things are moving quickly and changing.” I appreciated this feedback. You may have similar questions and reflections. As such, I would like to take this opportunity to connect.

Indeed, we are accomplishing a lot. Through our collective work, we are achieving meaningful goals and doing so at a pace that positions us to be responsive to the needs of the communities we serve and to our students. If our pace seems accelerated — it is! That is because the problems that we are solving are urgent, the students we are preparing are ready, and the work that we do is of high value.

Thank you for all the hard work, sacrifices, and for your willingness to continue building a shared vision for the school’s future. The road to solidifying our shared vision routes through our Strategic plan[t]ing process.

NEW RESOURCE WEB PAGE

Thanks to our Communications team, we now have a new [web page](#) that will serve as a repository for resources related to Strategic Plan[t]ing. Any time you have a question about the process (for example, What phase of the process are we in? How can I submit feedback? What did Dean Ramona say in her last message?), this is the place to find an answer! In addition, the page contains [a form to submit a question](#) for the FAQ section. I encourage you to submit your questions and feedback at any time. This resource page will be updated regularly as our planning process moves forward.

ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT PHASE

I mentioned in my email of Sept. 2 that this process will have four phases, and we are currently in Phase 1 (Organizational Assessment). Earlier this month, Kairos Insights, our consultant partners, held focus groups to help with developing the

surveys that will make up the next part of this phase. Thank you to the members of our community who answered the call and participated in the focus groups, which concluded on Sept. 8.

NEXT STEPS: PHASE 1

The next step in the Organizational Assessment phase is the writing and deployment of three survey instruments. A Survey Advisory Committee (led by Kairos and composed of SSW faculty and staff) is developing the questions for three surveys: Climate and Culture Survey, Community Partner Survey, and Alumni Survey. The Climate and Culture Survey will be disseminated to all faculty and staff in late October, and I strongly encourage everyone to complete it. The more voices we have engaged in creating this vision, the better it will be. It is important to me and the Kairos team that we hear from you at every step of the way. Survey results will be available in December.

FEEDBACK

Now that the resource page is launched, please submit any questions you may have via [this form](#), and our Communications team will find answers. Also, please feel free to contact me directly with any comments, concerns or compliments. Thank you so much for your continued engagement and contributions.

All the best. Take care.

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