

**AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT (AHCSO)  
FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2010  
CAMPUS CENTER, ROOM 905-09**

**MINUTES**

- 1. The meeting opened with the observation that “the general sense of the faculty is that we are not able to provide input at the strategic level. At the strategic level is where faculty are finding things wanting. The “Framework for Excellence” has lots that faculty members agree with. However, there is a sense that the Chancellor does not hear us. Where is he coming from? Decisions are being made and there does not seem to be a strategic vision behind them. We recognize that both the Chancellor and Provost came to the university at a very difficult time.” We want to hear how the Provost sees the situation, and to offer suggestions and explore various options to address the faculty-administration communication process.**

Provost Staros expressed his frustration with such an observation given his efforts and the Chancellor’s to hold sessions on the budget with faculty from various departments making for an unprecedented level of direct communication with faculty.

Members responded that despite these important efforts there were problems that had emerged from before the Provost’s arrival in August and that even this year faculty members have attempted to communicate with the Chancellor and his responses at times does not establish two-way communication.

What is University Relations doing for internal communication strategies? A newsletter like “From the Top” was suggested. A website or blog with online responses to important presentations from the Chancellor was presented as a way to improve communication. The Provost expressed interest in such ideas and then departed the meeting

- 2. Ralph Whitehead made a “No Brain” recommendation to have key revenue generating/cost containment (profit/loss) staff members come before AHCSO to discuss how the efforts they are tasked with are connected to or has an impact upon our strategic vision.**

Examples include the C&PE , Summer Initiatives , etc. We went on to discuss what to do with a deep budget crisis? Do "Strategic Cuts" (Susan Pearson)=*Across the Board Cuts*?

- 3. Adjournment**

*I was unable to both record minutes and facilitate the discussion, so please send additions and corrections to the minutes as you wish to Amilcar Shabazz [shabazz@froam.umass.edu](mailto:shabazz@froam.umass.edu)*

\* \* \* Please do NOT quote from this draft \* \* \*