

## UT System Strategic Planning Project October 2011 Monthly Report

### “Listening Sessions”

In September and October 2011, The Napa Group team of consultants facilitating development of the UT System Strategic Plan conducted “listening sessions” with more than 200 members of the University of Tennessee’s System administration, campuses and institutes, Board of Trustees, alumni and members of the greater UT community.

The Napa Group visited the four campuses (University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, University of Tennessee-Knoxville and University of Tennessee-Martin) and the Institute of Agriculture (Knoxville) to interview administrators, faculty, staff, students, Trustees and community members and conducted other interviews by teleconference, including members of the System Administration, the UT Research Foundation administration and other research leadership in the System and at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Sessions were to be completed in November with the Institute of Public Service, the Office of Public and Government Relations and campus communications directors. The sessions provided perspectives about the University, its opportunities and challenges, and some of the critically important activities that need to be considered if the System’s strategic plan is to be successful and demonstrated the good will of the interviewees toward advancing UT.

While questions were customized to each group, the broad areas of focus were:

1. Expectations of a Strategic Plan for the UT System and its mission
2. Key areas of a new plan that will be critical to the success of their campuses/institutes
3. Opportunities and challenges faced by the UT System and their campuses/institutes
4. Views of the University’s centralized-decentralized structure

A report on the major themes from the listening sessions was prepared for President Joe DiPietro and the Steering Committee to use in revising proposed strategies for the UT System Strategic Plan. The information also will be used by Task Forces that will develop initiatives for the strategic goals. Their work will begin following the Steering Committee meeting on November 11 and end in January.

### Strategic Plan Website

A new website providing information about the strategic planning project, including participation, project activities and reports, launched at the end of October as part of the commitment to keep

members of the UT Community informed about the plan's progress. The website is:

<http://president.tennessee.edu/strategicplan/index.html>

Next Steps:

- The project's Steering Committee meets November 11, 2011 in Nashville.
- Task Forces will develop strategic planning initiatives - December 2011-January 2012.
- The Steering Committee will meet February 2, 2012.
- A first draft of the UT System Strategic Plan will be developed for review and comment in February 2012.