

November 19, 2008

Ms. V'Ella Warren, Chair)
Dean Ana Mari Cauce)
Vice Provost Paul Jenny)
Professor Ed Lazowska)
Vice Provost Mary Lidstrom)
Dean Matt O'Donnell)
Vice President Johnese Spisso)
Vice Provost David Szatmary)

Working Group II on
UW Technology

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Working Group II on UW Technology. As you know, last spring the UW Technology organization eliminated 82 positions, including the layoff of 66 employees, because of significant financial issues. I subsequently charged an initial working group with identifying root causes of the financial situation and recommending measures that would put the organization on solid footing. I also asked for recommendations on institutional initiatives to prevent a similar occurrence in other UW units. The working group submitted its report to me in September, and now the implementation work must begin.

You were selected for this group because of your leadership on the initial working group or your participation on earlier technology governance or risk committees. I trust these experiences will bring great perspective and wisdom to the work ahead.

While this effort is ambitious, it is nonetheless critical in achieving the UW's research, teaching, and service missions. We must have and deserve a technology organization that provides flexible, cost-effective, creative, and sustainable services to the UW communities.

I have asked V'Ella Warren, who chaired the initial working group, to chair this effort as well. She will be supported by Ann Anderson, who will provide leadership for the overall coordination of action teams that will advance specific working group recommendations.

Thank you for taking on this important work. I am confident that your leadership will lead to a stronger technology organization.

Sincerely yours,



Mark A. Emmert
President

cc: Ms. Ann Anderson