Dear Members of the University of Washington Community,

I write to inform you of the Regents' thinking and planning for undertaking a search for the next president of the University and for how we intend to engage the University community in the process. First, though, I want to thank again Interim President Ana Mari Cauce for stepping into this very important role. Her knowledge, experience, and passion for the University have kept its leadership in very able hands, enabling the Regents to give ample thought and consideration to commencing a search in a deliberate and careful manner, unencumbered by the pressures of time.

This spring, we intend to take the initial steps to get the search under way by engaging the services of a reputable and distinguished national search firm and by appointing a broadly representative search advisory committee. I have asked Kenyon Chan, Chancellor Emeritus of UW Bothell, who also recently served as Interim Chancellor of UW Tacoma, to serve as chair of the committee. We will also be appointing the following members of the Board of Regents to serve on the committee: Kristi Blake, Joanne Harrell, Jeremy Jaech, and Rogelio Riojas.

In addition to these, we welcome any thoughts and ideas you may have about the composition of the rest of the committee. You may send them to us at uwsearch@uw.edu.

The Regents will solicit from our community perspectives on those qualities we should be looking for in the next president. These ideas may be sent to us via email at the address noted above, or in discussion through a number of open forums that will be held this spring for the purpose of soliciting these views.

The job of a modern university president is challenging, difficult, multi-dimensional, and all-consuming. And it is of critical importance to the future of the University. We have a very strong leadership team in place focused on keeping the UW's forward momentum. Our University is strong, innovative, and boundless in its aspirations, and we have assembled here from all over the world an exceptional faculty, staff, and student body. On behalf of the Board of Regents, I want you to know that we are determined to find the absolutely best person we can to lead this outstanding institution, and we are confident we will succeed.

Sincerely,

Bill Ayer, Chair
Board of Regents