

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs
Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



8 April 2016

University High School Strategic Vision Task Force

Richard Wheeler, Chair

Jeffrey Walkington, Director, University Laboratory High School

Elizabeth Majerus, Uni Faculty Representative

Sharlene Denos, Uni Faculty Representative

Steve Michael, Uni Parent-Faculty Organization Representative

Brent McBride, Child Development Lab

Amy Ando, Agricultural and Consumer Economics

Michaelene Ostrosky, Special Education

Timothy Stelzer, Physics

Matthew Tomaszewski, Associate Provost for Capital Planning, *ex officio*

Keith Marshall, Interim Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, *ex officio*

Dear Colleagues,

I recently learned of a new development in the Champaign-Urbana secondary education landscape that has a direct impact on the work of your task force. As you may have heard, the Libman family is committed to the creation of a new independent high school in town, accepting students as early as fall 2017, and they have approached the university about partnership opportunities.

The possible partnerships with the university are undefined at this point but could range from simply locating the new independent school in the research park to extensive partnerships with Uni as an integral component of an innovative new secondary education collaborative. The Libman group is very interested in exploring the collaborations that are of benefit to both schools and I write now to amend your charge to include the discussion of these opportunities.

In your charge you were asked to “Propose a vision for the role and purpose of Uni High” and “at least one new financial/operating model that could be sustainable over the next two decades or more.” With these new developments, I am amending your charge to ask that you propose three financial/operating models for the future: 1) a more sustainable version of the current university-centric model, 2) a creative approach that is not reliant on increased university investments, and 3) a collaboration with the new school proposed by the Libman group. Ideally, your task force would produce a brief report for each option outlining the pros/cons and estimated costs of each option.

The Libman group’s plans are moving quickly and we have roughly six months to discuss possible collaborations. I have asked my liaison to Uni, Associate Provost Keith Marshall, to take the lead on the discussions with the Libman group. As an *ex officio* member of your task force, he will arrange the necessary meetings, gather relevant data and coordinate the discussions with appropriate offices around campus.

Once again, thanks for agreeing to serve on this critical task force. I look forward to seeing your report and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EF', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward Feser
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

c: Abbas Benmamoun
Charles Tucker
Vicky Gress