Dear Colleagues:

As a world-class research university, our greatest accomplishments and contributions come from our ability to predict, identify, and meet the dynamic and most pressing needs of the global community through our creative and scholarly endeavors. Every day our faculty and staff address grand challenges facing society by engaging in innovative, creative, collaborative, and ground-breaking research, teaching and service. To build upon this nearly 150 year tradition of excellence, we must evolve in response to the sustained and significant cuts to state funding and to the changes occurring in higher education as a whole. We must apply what we do every day in our classrooms, laboratories and offices: ask critical and searching questions, evaluate data thoughtfully, and creatively and consultatively develop solutions. To ensure that we realize our strategic goal of being the pre-eminent public university with a land-grant mission and global impact, our campus must consider how we use resources to fulfill our core missions of research, teaching, service and economic development and to enhance our excellence in all of those missions.

The Campus Budget Advisory Task Force (CBATF) will act as an advisory body to the Chancellor and me, as we work with the Council of Deans and through shared governance with the Senate. As an initial matter, CBATF will focus its attention on fundamental questions surrounding our historic budget allocation model, the implications of continued declines in General Revenue Funds, and the size of our administrative functions.

The work of the CBATF will inform our review of existing budget processes and the structure of standing campus budget committees. The aim is to ensure that we have an approach to ongoing budget review and guidance that is effective, efficient, and consistent with our shared governance principles.
Professor Matthew Ando, Head of the Mathematics Department, has graciously agreed to serve as Chair of the CBATF. I ask each of you to serve on the CBATF for Academic Year 2015-16.

Thank you for your willingness to serve on this task force and to assist the campus in this critically important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Edward Feser
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost

c: Barbara Wilson, Interim Chancellor
Staci Provezis, Assistant Provost
Katherine Galvin, Associate Provost