

Strategic Plan 2009

Interim Dean Martin J. Katz

Our strategic planning process is going strong and is on schedule for completion in December.

As I indicated in my August message, we are collecting data in 4 areas: (1) information about the College of Law via interviews of faculty, students and staff, (2) information from other stakeholders in the College of Law (alumni/bench/bar); (3) information about other law schools (peer schools and schools ranked above us); and (4) recent literature regarding analysis of and calls for change in legal education and the legal profession.

Since the last report, we have completed the first task (interviews with people at the College of Law). Interviews with approximately 50 law school stakeholders provided us with some initial impressions about our perceived strengths and weaknesses. Some of our strengths include our faculty and staff; our location and possibilities for synergies within the University and the Denver legal community; our passion and commitment to teaching; and the raw talent and energy in so many of our interest areas and programs. The main weaknesses identified at this point seem to be the piecemeal approach of how interest areas and programs have been developed and staffed; a lack of alignment creating lost opportunities; and the lack of long term thinking. (It is precisely this type of long term thinking that we hope to accomplish with the strategic plan.)

In addition, this initial survey showed a true eagerness within the law school community to seize this window of opportunity. The Chancellor and Provost have shown their commitment to teaching excellence by reducing our class size and providing us with 10 new faculty lines. And the dean search provides us with a valuable chance to shape our future. Excitement is running high.

The second task (collection of information with alumni, bench, and bar) are in progress and will be completed soon. Interviews are under way, and we are near completion on a randomized alumni and practitioner survey, which should be out within the next week or so. We look forward to reporting the results.

Tasks (3) and (4), the survey of other law schools and the literature search, are ongoing. The next step will be to circulate a draft to faculty, which we hope to do by mid-October.

If we have not contacted you and you would like to provide input into the plan, we welcome your comments. Please do so soon by emailing the Chair of our Faculty Executive Committee, K.K. DuVivier (kkduvivier@law.du.edu). We value your input.

We are poised to seize our future. Thank you for your support on this important project.