

University Priorities Committee Fall (UPC) Report

Lori Snyder Bennear, Chair

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Who we are: The University Priorities Committee (UPC) is a President's advisory committee. The charge to the committee is to work with senior administrators to define University and academic priorities and to ensure that the University's annual and long-term budget reflect those priorities. A guiding principle of UPC is consultation during discussion and deliberation rather than after decisions have been made. The membership includes ten faculty members drawn from all units of the University; the Chair of the Academic Council; ex officio members representing the University including the Provost and the Executive Vice President; two Deans; a graduate student and an undergraduate student.

Activities: Much of what we do during the year is to listen to and give feedback on reports on various items related to the University's financial health and long-term outlook. For example, the UPC is informed about the performance of the Duke Management Company (DUMAC) which manages endowment funds and other investment funds for Duke University and other clients. UPC also reviews and provides input on items to be discussed by the Board of Trustees Budget and Finance (B&F) Committee. Key issues discussed during the 2016-2017 academic year included the financial plan for DKU, undergraduate financial aid, implications of reductions in expectations about returns to the endowment funds, the Duke Forward campaign results, and funding for the strategic plan, among other topics.

Outlook and Issues for 2017-2018: In addition to annual reports from DUMAC, reviews of B&F materials, and reports on undergraduate financial aid budgets, UPC has at least four major issues to discuss during the 2017-2018 year, including:

- Review and discuss the post-campaign plans for funding Development and Alumni affairs.
- Review the finances of the University Institutes and Centers (UICs), at the request of Provost Kornbluth.
- Discuss the University's capital ambitions including renovations of dorms, the science campaign, etc.
- Discuss funding for the deployment of the strategic plan.