

Charter for Committee to Reimagine the University of Rochester

Sponsor: Provost Rob Clark

Staff: Amy Happ, Deputy to the Provost

Chair: Ray Dorsey, MD, Professor of Neurology; Director, Center for Health + Technology

Charge:

The University of Rochester has a window of opportunity to reimagine its future post-pandemic. The shelter at home approach to controlling the spread of the virus has forced our nation to rethink the way we work and to adapt in ways that we previously did not consider, some better, and some not. However, whether one year from now or more, when this pandemic has been addressed, the world will have been forever changed. We can either embrace the change and find ways to lead or react to the change and follow.

The University of Rochester has an opportunity to define the future of higher education for our students, both in how content is delivered, in-person, and online. We have an opportunity to rethink the residential experience and how we protect our community while also affording experiences that are essential to a residential college. We have opportunities to not only adapt, but to use the adaptation to make all elements of the university experience better - Meliora.

The University will enter into a strategic planning exercise in the future, and we need to think in transformation ways as opposed to incremental ways. We need to consider mechanisms for disrupting higher education in a manner that supports the university model but is unique to the University of Rochester and provides us with competitive advantages when being considered as an alternative by prospective students, faculty, and staff.

I would ask that this committee identify 10 big-ideas that would transform the university experience and make the University of Rochester a better choice for all the reasons students, faculty and staff would want to be part of the institution. These ideas could serve as the seeds for strategic planning and ways to both differentiate and ensure the future of our University.

Deliverable: Report of 10 big ideas for re-imagining the University of Rochester

Deadline: Friday, September 4, 2020