



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

November 18, 2008

TO: Matthew S. Platz, Interim Dean, College of Biological Sciences
Joan Leitzel, Interim Executive Dean and Vice Provost of Arts and Sciences

FROM: Joseph A. Alutto, Executive Vice President and Provost

RE: Reaction to the October 2008 version of the College of Biological Sciences strategic plan

I very much appreciate the development and submission of this version of the College of Biological Sciences strategic plan. Clearly, the college has taken major steps to establish a new view of itself and to consider reorganization in a manner that has the potential to position the college for innovation. Please consider the following comments as you lead the college over the next twelve months and as the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences evolve to support our aspirations for eminence of this university. In this regard, I ask that there be a focus on the following in the near term:

- Planning for compensation at a minimum of 3.5% annually but particularly in consideration of the gap compared to aspirational peers;
- Assuring commitments to the Targeted Investments in Excellence;
- Invigorating and supporting the Center for Life Sciences Education;
- Focusing on high quality doctoral education;
- Following the articulated strategies related to facilities and capital planning; and
- Supporting innovations in STEM education and teacher education.

The evolution of the College of Biological Sciences should be particularly responsive to the outcomes of the evaluation of the life sciences and the environmental and earth sciences. I encourage you to pursue the integration and/or consolidation of chemistry and biochemistry. The directions for entomology recently developed by the faculty in this area should be fully supported. In particular, I strongly encourage you to follow the recommendations of the program reviews, especially that for microbiology. In this regard, please consult with Vice President for Research Carol Whitacre, who can help facilitate discussions that may most optimally support the results of the microbiology program review.

The success of the College of Biological Sciences is critical to Ohio State's aspirations for eminence. We commit to support the college in ways that will help promote our institutional prominence.

c.c.: Carol Whitacre
Vice Provosts
Donna Hobart
Brad Harris
Andrea R. Ward Ross