

A message from Dr. Gage E. Paine
Vice President

Division of Student Affairs



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"However beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results." Winston Churchill

And who are we to disagree with Winston Churchill? In this case I think we are wise to heed his words and we have. During the semester, our departments have been submitting their reports on the work being done across the Division in furtherance of our 2013-2018 Strategic Plan. These are impressive reports. They emphasize what I like most about our Strategic Plan — it's based in the work we do and it's a guide to push us to do better.

After the reports were completed, Gale Stuart, our Division director of assessment, convened a work group who took 58 pages of details and condensed them into a report (<http://bit.ly/1QB1ZW4>). A "report card" may be a better descriptor because it shows us where we are making progress and where we still have work to do.

The good news is that we are making progress, doing good work, and making a difference in the lives of our students and our community. The fact that we still have work to do is not bad news, it's also good news. After all, this report was for year two. We're in the middle of year three and our plan wouldn't be much good if it could have all been done in the first couple of years.

As we share this report across the Division, we have a great deal to celebrate. For example, we have increased partnerships with faculty. All of our departments were also much more involved in Longhorn Welcome, which feeds into Strategic Goal 1. Of course, we still have much to do. We need to define shared principles of leadership and integrity. We also must develop a shared understanding of civic engagement. As Churchill recommends, we stop and check the results of our "beautiful" strategic plan. We take time to appreciate all that we have accomplished, recognize what still needs to be done and check ourselves to make sure we are still on track.

Here at the mid-point, looking at what we accomplished in the first two years, I have no doubt of our ability to keep moving forward and accomplishing all that we set out to do.

My thanks to each one of you for the good work you have done, are doing and will continue to do to make our Strategic Plan a reality while always remembering its real purpose — to make sure we are living up to our mission of *supporting students throughout their university experience* and reaching for our vision of being *a leader in the creation of a campus culture that engages all students and inspires them to change the world*.

Special thanks are owed to Gale Stuart and her work group for the good work in creating this Second Year Progress Report.

Take care,

-Gage

Dr. Gage E. Paine
Vice President for Student Affairs
The University of Texas at Austin



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WHAT STARTS HERE CHANGES THE WORLD