Rice 2032: Building the Vision in Disruptive Times

Profound changes already underway will reshape universities over the next 20 years. How will Rice apply, develop, and share technologies in order to transform classrooms, information delivery, and access? In what ways can we take advantage of the increasing mobility of faculty and students in a competitive global higher education marketplace? What strategies should we contemplate to strengthen our long-term financial outlook in response to changing patterns of research funding?

During 2012, the Faculty Senate will sponsor, in collaboration with the President, a series of four faculty lunch workshops devoted to the creative work of imagining the future of the University from a range of different perspectives across the campus. Each workshop will focus on one of four V2C points critical to our mission, beginning with Teaching, International/Global engagement, and Research.

At each lunch, 35 faculty will be joined by five members of the Board of Trustees and seated in small groups to facilitate discussion. The lunch will open with a series of four, 5-minute statements by faculty members from different schools, who will identify a small number of key issues that provide entry points for the discussion at individual tables that will follow. Speakers will provide a short list of recommended readings prior to the lunch for participants who wish to prepare.

Each table will have a discussion facilitator and a notetaker; the final output will be an outline of the main issues, concerns, and substantive suggestions raised during the discussion. These mini white papers will be shared broadly – with the Board, the President and other administrators, and with faculty.

Schedule of workshops:  Friday, January 20, 12-2 pm -- Teaching  
Friday, March 9, 12-2 pm -- International/Global engagement  
Monday, April 23, 12-2 pm – Research  
TBA – September

How you can participate: Your Senators will be circulating an interest list for the three Spring Semester workshops. Please sign up for any workshops that interest you by December 12. You can also be nominated by your chair or Dean. Please hold the dates on your calendar. The Senate Executive Committee will identify faculty participants for each workshop with a view to appropriate representation from all schools. The President will issue invitations to those on the list provided by Senate and to Board members.