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Pizza Luncheon with GSAC

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(GSAC is hoping you'll say a few words by way of updates/previews of coming attractions. Suggestions follow.)

• Strategic planning.
  - We were challenged by the Higher Learning Commission to bring our strategic planning under the umbrella of a single campuswide strategic plan. That was a healthy process and we spent the summer and fall refining such a plan that will help guide us into the future. There are a series of specific goals and evaluation measures, but the overarching vision under which that plan was developed is that we're:
    • Learner Centered
    • Discovery Driven and
    • Globally Engaged.

  That vision and the more specific goals and measures will very much impact our graduate programs, and I urge you to read the plan (On the Provost's website) and provide feedback and input.

• Discovery
  - Our faculty members have had their research featured in some important national and international journals. Every time that happens, it enhances the reputation and recognition for our graduate programs.

    Anthropologist Robert Anemone and Geographer Jay Emerson have been featured in Nature and New Scientist for their efforts in using artificial intelligence
to help locate fossils. This happened after the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology featured their paper abstract for reporters at a recent society meeting.

The international physics team led by our Nora Berrah was just featured on the site PhysOrg for their work in matching the results of their experiments at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center to theoretical modeling that had been done earlier.

• Global Engagement

- Our international enrollment increased this fall by 10.5 percent and is now up to nearly 1,400 (1,395). That's a trend we plan to continue.

- I've recently returned from Milan, where I presented information about the accomplishments of our Confucius Institute. (Provide some detail on that trip and presentation.)