MEMORANDUM

TO:       Budget Reallocation Working Group
SUBJECT:  Official Charge

Thank you for agreeing to serve on this important committee. Members from a wide range of campus constituents were chosen for their ability to adopt a broad perspective and to act on behalf of the university’s best interests rather than those of any single individual or group. Your work will be challenging but very important; it will form the foundation for critical “next-steps” in the progress and success of Texas A&M University.

The charge to the Budget Reallocation Working Group is: (1) identify the areas of highest university strategic priority that merit fiscal investment; (2) recommend the magnitude of investment in each of these priority areas; and (3) recommend a process or processes for allocating funds to/within those strategic areas. The Working Group should build on existing strategic documents produced with broad input from many campus constituents. In addition to Vision 2020: Creating a Culture of Excellence, these documents include, but are not limited to, the Academic Master Plan, units’ current strategic plans and budget reduction proposals, recent task force reports, and feedback from the five forums and other meetings held this semester. For many of these resources, please refer to the budget reallocation website found at: http://provost.tamu.edu/strategic-planning-2010

I ask that the Working Group proceed in three stages that correspond to the group's three responsibilities listed above. In stage one of the Working Group’s deliberations, please state recommendations for strategic priority funding as broad goals—large priority areas, rather than specific programs. The recommendations in stages two and three of the Working Group’s deliberations are intended to guide our campus toward allocation of funds to support the strategic priorities identified in stage one. The immediate funds to be considered are the $21M identified in the recent budget reduction plus any additional “savings” that may result from decisions in the upcoming legislative session that reduce our potential “worst-case” reduction below the $39M currently set aside. Most importantly, the priority areas should be the foundation for decisions about funding. Criteria for requesting funds, as well as accountability measures for those units who ultimately receive them, also should be clear. The Working Group will have access to the sources of funds available for reallocation as well as other relevant data.

I ask that the Working Group provide opportunities for campus feedback during its deliberations, and that you forward your recommendations to me by November 19, 2010. The Working Group’s recommendations will position Texas A&M University to meet the goals of Vision 2020 and subsequent strategic documents. Even in our challenging economic climate, we are committed to making steady progress toward excellence.

In advance, I appreciate your hard work on this matter and your commitment to the future of Texas A&M University and the education of our students.

R. Bowen Loftin