UMD’s Department of Electrical Engineering (‘EE”) has completed a formal strategic planning process. The Department’s Strategic Plan (the “Plan”), starts with a broad assessment of the Department in its present state, and concludes with action plans for creating core competencies in two major fields. The detailed Plan is available for review in the Department office. This summary presents the highlights of the Plan.

Assessment of Department’s Current State
A significant part of any planning process involves an assessment of an organization in its current state, and how it compares and relates to other organizations in its environment, and the nature of the environment itself. The EE planning process revealed several noteworthy observations, including:

- UMD’s Department of Electrical Engineering enjoys a significant advantage over similar departments elsewhere by way of its intracampus association with three other engineering departments.
- Department faculty is well balanced in expertise across theoretical and experimental/applied approaches to engineering.
- The discipline of electrical engineering is transitioning from a focus on computer engineering to the explosive fields of healthcare (biomedical), and power and energy.
- Faculty expertise aligns well with the electrical engineering opportunities arising in these two fields.
- Student interest is also strong in the biomedical field, and in the power and energy field particularly with respect to electric vehicles, wind and other renewable technologies, nuclear power, and smart grid technologies.

Strategic Plan
In view of the Department’s strengths and the changing environment of the electrical engineering field, the Plan recommends that the Department of Electrical Engineering endeavor to accomplish the following strategic objectives:

- Create a core competency in the application of electrical engineering theory and technologies to the biomedical instrumentation field.
- Create a core competency in power and energy engineering.
- Establish an industrial liaison process for each of the core competencies above.

Developing each of the core competencies is contingent on maintaining and expanding faculty with appropriate expertise and research interests, and structuring courses and research to accentuate current engineering problems in the core fields, among other factors. Establishing a formal liaison relationship with key technology developers, where
developments are mutually and periodically discussed, is an essential step in strengthening the core competencies.

**Endowments**
The Plan also identifies how endowments of various sizes would be put to immediate use, consistent with the direction of the Plan. From establishing programs for reaching out to high school students that are interested in engineering, to new facilities with advanced research labs and classrooms, the Plan contains details on how funds would be put to work.