The richness of any planning effort springs from the imagination, clarity of vision, and commitment of the leaders, experts, and community members who participate. Princeton University’s planning exercise benefited from strong participation in all three categories. In the spring of 2005, President Tischman asked me to serve as the executive sponsor of this two-year campus planning effort. Our first step was to establish a campus planning steering committee to provide broad oversight for the effort, advise key decisions, and make sure that our planning was fully aligned with the University’s overall strategic goals. The committee met in whole or in part every other week for two years. Chaired by President Tischman, it included Provost Christopher Langton, Vice President and Secretary Bob David, Vice President for Development Brian McDonald, former and present chairs of the Boards and Buildings Committee of the Board of Trustees, Neil Rudenstine and Karen Magee, Dean of the Architecture School Stan Allan, two members of the architecture faculty, Guy Nordenson and Bob Gutman. I, Vice President for Facilities Mike McKay, and myself. Sadly, Bob Gutman did not live to see the publication of this report. Bob’s scholarly work prepared him well to be the conscience of this planning effort, and we all will miss his insightful questions and dry wit.

The planning effort was ably directed by University Architect Jon Hafler and Associate University Architect Natalie Silver, with support from Bob Barnett and Paul LaMarche, the former and current vice provosts for space planning and programming. Knah Appelget, the University’s director of community and regional affairs, also played an important part ensuring that community views were carefully considered in all our deliberations. This intensive dialogue among senior management, faculty, and trustees not only set the direction for the planning exercise, but provided constant guidance and feedback for our consultants.

We were very fortunate to have chosen a consulting team led by Neil Kittredge, a partner at Bayan Biderle Biderle Architects & Planners, to lead this effort. Neil brought to this role a combination of vision and practical knowledge of our environment along with an exceptional ability to listen carefully, think creatively, and explain clearly. With his team of Marc Sheehy, Dan Van Pelt, and Deanna Donatini from Groves Stade Associates, George Chance, Guillermo Leiva, and Chris Jurek from CHANCE Management Advisors, and Karen Backus, Steve Jacobs, and Lori Maturian from Dave Associates led by Neil created the landscape plan with higher sustainability initiatives; and David developed a comprehensive system of wayfinding that will enhance the feeling of being welcome on campus for years to come. We are also grateful to Dave’s team for overseeing the design and production of this book, the accompanying brochure, and the campus plan website, as well as Juana Duplaga for writing and editing, Peter Ripper for rendering, and Fred Charles, Air Buring, and Seanathin Boshche for photography. This book would also not have been possible without the significant investment of time by Ruth Stevens, executive editor in the University’s Office of Communications.

The planning process was also enriched by consultants on transportation, parking, civil engineering, retail, and real estate. No planning exercise in the State of New Jersey can succeed without a thoughtful approach to these issues. Georges Jacquemet and Almeira Falaise from BFJ Planning along with Frederick Goros, Dan VanPelt, Charles Siever, and Deanna Donatini from Groves Stade Associates; George Chance, Guillermo Leiva, and Chris Jurek from CHANCE Management Advisors, Tom O’Shea from Van Notte Harvey; Kate Culmaw and Tom Moriarty from Economics Research Associates; and Karen Jacobs and Lori Maturian from Dave Associates led by Neil led these efforts respectively. We are especially thankful that both George and Barbara aggressively advocated for environmentally sustainable approaches to their respective challenges.

There were hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and community residents who actively engaged in many meetings and forums, both on- and off campus. These campus and community conversations were the sources of some of the planning exercise’s most important ideas and helped to refine others.

Finally, this planning process benefited enormously from the sustained and close attention of our trustees. In addition to providing regular briefings to the Grounds and Buildings Committee, I engaged the full board in discussions at Committee of the Whole meetings and at a board retreat. These conversations the trustees provided helpful guidance and encouragement at each stage of the planning process.

Princeton University owes deep gratitude to all who are mentioned above and its campus is significantly enriched by their investment of diligence, creativity, and vision.

Mark Burstein
Executive Vice President
Princeton University