More tasks lie ahead...

The year-long efforts of the Task Force on the Undergraduate Experience, highlighted by the release of its interim report yesterday, should not be in vain. But, the 32 page report will most probably remain a mere packet of black print without the student input and constructive criticism necessary to turn the interim report into a final one and ultimately one that can be put into action.

Strategic planning and task force efforts often carry the stigma of being overly abstract, idealistic, and intangible. They are carefully worded and bound into a document that few students would take the effort and time out of their busy schedules to read. However, it doesn’t have to be that way. Many of the ideas included in the newly-released report would be of interest to students and would affect their daily lives at the University. One large-scale change proposed, for example, would create a four-college system to provide Tufts students with an even tighter, more closely-knit community.

To ensure that these far-reaching changes and the proposals put forth by the Task Force and the Student Advisory Committee truly represent the kinds of changes we, as students, would like to see, we have to provide the input and criticism that would make modifications to the report happen. This of course requires that students actually read the interim report and take the time to provide feedback.

Here, publicity generated by the Task Force plays an important role in reaching out for student input. Open forums, ads around campus and e-mails have been good initial attempts at bringing in fresh perspectives. Now that the interim report is out, all members of the Tufts community — should make an effort to review it with a critical eye.

In turn, the Task Force should continue to provide open forums for communication and an easy, accessible, and friendly medium through which the Tufts community can voice concerns and suggestions. These opportunities must be widely publicized to the entire student body. Only with the consolidated effort of everyone can the proposals included in these types of reports truly pay off and become a reality that improves the Tufts community.