

February 26, 2012

Dear Beverly and Members of the Faculty Council -- I'm sorry I had to miss the Council meeting last week, and I want to thank Greg Kelly for attending the meeting on my behalf. He has briefed me on the discussion, and I appreciate receiving the additional feedback regarding the new model of curriculum coordination that we are developing. I do realize concerns continue to exist within the faculty about the new model, and I am grateful for the efforts the Faculty Council is making to raise these concerns in a constructive fashion. This said, I want to remind everyone that we are developing this new model as one of our responses to the Core Council recommendations. Moreover, it is not possible to evaluate something that does not yet exist. It is, instead, a work in progress, and I welcome the continued involvement of the Faculty Council as we work to further refine the model.

I also recognize the need to step-up the faculty voice in pursuing this further refinement, and toward that end I will be working with the Department Heads to identify one statesperson-like faculty member from each Department to sit down with Jackie Edmondson to think through the specifics of how the new model can and should work. Having some focused discussion from several of our many well-respected faculty members is timely and will complement the on-going conversation with the Faculty Council. I see this group as being advisory and a source of good ideas for further consideration by the dean and the Faculty Council. I do not see it as an on-going or time consuming process, but I think it can help us achieve greater clarity in the near term.

As a reminder, here are the basic principles we have jointly developed to date: (1) Individual program integrity is important and needs to be respected; (2) greater coherence needs to be developed across programs within as well as across Departments; and (3) resources for supporting programs need to be sensitive to indicators like the level of enrollment, the extent of relations with other campuses, the nature and extent of field placements, and national accreditation reviews when they occur.

Thank you again for your continued interest in getting this right. We need to be careful as we proceed, and I will keep you well informed as we take these next steps.

xc.: College listserv
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