Colleagues,

Before we come to the end of the 2013-2014 academic year, I wanted to close the loop on our concept paper review process for new academic programs. As you know, we lifted the moratorium on new academic programs last year and implemented a new concept paper process, the purpose of which was to provide an opportunity for campus vetting before moving to full proposal.

This year we received 21 concept papers – seven in January and 14 in May. All of these concept papers have been reviewed by the president and decisions have been made about moving some forward to full proposal development. In addition to the concept paper, the accompanying academic cost model, and the campus feedback, the president sought input from Dr. Miller, Dr. Watters, and me. We evaluated the concept papers against the Academic Portfolio Blueprint with a special focus on student demand, employer demand, selectivity, our aspirations to increase student diversity, and the RIT brand. We prioritized programs on the basis of these criteria with the understanding that, while many are good fits for the RIT academic portfolio, we cannot afford to move them all forward.

In the end, the president approved 14 programs to move to full proposal. This means the faculty will craft the full narrative program proposal and provide a detailed cost model for the campus to consider. The appropriate department curriculum committee, the college curriculum committees, either the ICC or the Graduate Council and the Academic Senate and President Destler must approve the final proposal. In the case of Ph.D. programs, the Board of Trustees must also approve the proposal.

The start date for these proposals varies. Many will start in the fall of 2015 but others will start in 2016 or later. I add that going to full proposal does not guarantee approval by the president.

For the seven programs that were not approved to move to full proposal, we provided feedback that would help faculty to resubmit the concept paper or rethink the concept.

In the pipeline, we have three programs currently awaiting approval from the New York State Department of Education: an MS in Computational Finance, an MS in Construction Management and an AAS in Civil Technology from NTID. The BS in Construction Management and the BS in Applied Technical Leadership will be sent to the State shortly.

You can find all the programs that have been approved to move to full proposal at the Academic Program Management website.

I want to thank the faculty, the department heads, and the deans for their substantial work in developing well-designed program concepts and for their willingness to try out the new campus
vetting practice. There were a number of excellent comments and these resulted in improvements to the concept papers.

Have a great summer.

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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