Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that after an extensive national search, Dr. James Myers has accepted my offer for the position of Associate Provost of International Education and Global Programs. While the search yielded terrific candidates with a variety of experiences that made the decision difficult, Jim’s skill set best fit the description of collaborative leadership. He brings to the position a commitment to reach out to all the various units on campus involved with international education, to build a transparent and open environment working with governance groups and existing committees, and to grow our options for student study abroad and faculty exchange opportunities.

For the past 10 years, Dr. Myers has served as the Director of the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies (CMS) and Outreach Education and Training where he oversees our multidisciplinary Applied Arts and Science and Professional Studies degree programs. During this time he has either led or directly supported RIT’s global initiatives including international corporate outreach and RIT programs in Southeastern Europe, Dubai, and the Caribbean. Prior to becoming the Director of CMS, he served as the first Associate Dean for RIT’s American College of Management and Technology in Dubrovnik, Croatia and was instrumental in establishing the American University of Kosovo.

Through his role as the RIT-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KOSOVO liaison, he has provided leadership for RIT at AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KOSOVO, including the USAID funded RIT/AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF KOSOVO Center for Energy and Natural Resource Development. He has served as a consultant to the World Bank’s Western Balkans Energy Efficiency Assessment team and is a reviewer for USAID’s Higher Education in Development (HED) grant program. Jim also serves as Associate Executive Director for Haiti Outreach Pwoje Espwa (H.O.P.E), an international non-profit organization which operates a hospital, clinic and community health system in Borgne, Haiti.

Jim earned both his B.S. and M.S. degrees from RIT and his Ph.D. in Natural Resource Economics from Michigan State University. He lives in Webster with his wife, Kristen, and their two daughters, Mckenzie (14) and Olivia (12).

As a result of his new appointment, Jim will be leaving his director position within the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies on August 31, 2012. An announcement regarding the leadership of CMS will be forthcoming.

This selection would not have been possible without the incredible work from the search committee: co-chairs Robert Barbato and Hector Flores, Jeff Cox, Silvia Benso, Maria Richart, Tynelle Stewart, Diane Ellison, Kevin McDonald, Dan Goodwin, and Stanley Van Horn. I am very grateful not only for their work but for the enthusiasm they generated on campus with this search. The positive energy was simply palpable.
Over the next several months, Dr. Myers and I will be proposing a plan of work for the next year. This set of activities will include listening to the community, working with the International Education ad hoc committee from the academic senate, establishing a mode of communication that will allow all RIT community members to engage in international education, and begin strategic planning to move us forward in this necessary and exciting space. Please join me in congratulating Jim on his new appointment.

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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