Colleagues,

I am very pleased to share with you an important update and announcement on the leadership for the College of Liberal Arts. As you all know, Dean Jamie Winebrake has led the College of Liberal Arts since his appointment in January 2011. The appointment was made with the anticipation that it would be for three years after which we would have a national search in AY 2012-2013.

For the past several weeks, however, at the invitation of both faculty and staff, I have been engaged in broad conversations with members of the College of Liberal Arts community; the near unanimous message was their clear and overwhelming position that a national search should be averted and we should appoint Dean Winebrake to the dean position moving forward. This recommendation came from every constituent group in the college including members of the College Advisory Board, as well as other internal and external stakeholders.

The reasons provided are many, but central to all of them is the overriding conviction that Jamie has brought the kind of leadership that the college has been seeking for some time. Morale in the college is substantial. There is a renewed sense of purpose. Values of community, respect, inclusiveness, understanding, and accountability are embraced. He has built trust by demonstrating competency, stability, and momentum toward the institution’s strategic goals, and a commitment to the core values of RIT. In short, the members of the College have extreme confidence in the leadership of Dean Winebrake.

National searches are used by universities to identify qualified candidates, to validate leadership, and of course to demonstrate our commitment of the values of inclusive excellence and diversity. But national searches are not the only way to insure that we have qualified candidates, leaders with validation, or a manifestation of our commitment to diversity. In the case of Dean Winebrake, I am convinced by the overarching confidence and arguments of the faculty, staff and students from the College of Liberal Arts as well as others that Dean Winebrake exemplifies these three principles – qualified, validated, and committed to diversity. Moreover, I am also convinced that a search would disrupt the great progress recently made and create an environment of uncertainty.

Consequently, I am writing to announce that Dean Winebrake has accepted my offer to remain the dean of the College of Liberal Arts on an ongoing basis, effective July 1, 2012. With the encouragement and strong support of the College, and after thorough review of Dean Winebrake’s leadership, we will not be conducting a national search.

It is not without great personal concern on my part that I make this appointment without a national search; it may appear as to set a precedent that we will circumvent processes and thereby undermine the principles of why we do national searches. However, through these conversations and discussions that I’ve had with members of the RIT community, both
inside and outside the college, I am convinced that in this exceptional case these principles have been anything but undermined and in every way fortified.

Please join me in congratulating Dean Winebrake on his ongoing appointment.

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Dr. James (Jamie) Winebrake has been a faculty member at RIT since August 2002, when he was recruited to lead the newly formed Public Policy Program in the College of Liberal Arts. He later was appointed chair of the Department of STS/Public Policy, and in January 2011 he was appointed dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. Winebrake has published extensively on issues related to the environmental impacts of goods movement, including: health risk assessments of ocean-going vessels, total fuel-cycle analyses of alternative fuels, and cost-effectiveness of emissions reduction technologies and policies for trains, trucks and ships. While at RIT, Dr. Winebrake has been PI or Co-PI on sponsored research totaling over $2 million. He also is Co-Director of the RIT Laboratory for Environmental Computing and Decision Making, an Institute-wide, interdisciplinary lab that has brought together faculty from all of the colleges at RIT to explore the environmental impacts of transportation and energy systems.

In 2010 Dr. Winebrake was awarded the RIT Trustees Scholar Award, and he has received numerous other research and teaching awards during his career, including the Madison Scholar Award and the Outstanding Teacher Award while serving as a faculty member at James Madison University prior to his tenure at RIT. Dr. Winebrake recently served on the National Academies of Science (NAS) Committee on A Study of Potential Energy Savings and Greenhouse Gas Reductions from Transportation, as well as the NAS Committee on An Assessment of Fuel Economy Technologies for Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles. He is an active member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), and is a sitting member on the TRB Energy Committee. He is also the Governor of New York's representative on the New York State Energy Planning Board.

Dr. Winebrake received a B.S. in Physics from Lafayette College, a M.S. in Technology and Policy from M.I.T., and a Ph.D. in Energy Management and Policy from the University of Pennsylvania. He resides in Pittsford, NY with his wife and four children.
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