Colleagues,

Back in the warm summer days of 2010, when the calendar conversion effort got underway, we were still trying to understand the complexity of what we were about to do; we had more questions than answers and many questions loomed, which we did not even know needed to be asked. But we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. A year ago last February, in a calendar conversion midpoint update, I reflected on our efforts thus far, our challenges and accomplishments, and on RIT’s future, as our first year in the semester calendar was still a year-and-a-half away.

On the last day of class of the 10th week of RIT’s last spring quarter, I went back to what I had written in February 2012. Instead of repeating—and adding, I am sure, much more — to what I wrote back then, I invite you to read my midpoint update and reflect on the following: Since the start of the calendar conversion project,

- We registered 222 semester programs with New York State Education Department (NYSED).
- Our academic departments have developed program level outcomes assessment plans for 192 semester degree programs, and 62 of those plans have already been moved to TaskStream, RIT’s new web-based management system.
- The General Education Committee has approved 917 semester courses.
- Our undergraduate advising staff and academic leadership have delivered 10,352 Individual Advisement Plans (IAPs) and most of our 2,865 graduate students have also received their IAPs as well.
- The Registrar’s Office converted 150,000 former and current student records to the new Student Information System (SIS) database. This resulted in an estimated 14,000,000 database rows of student-related data.
- Our scheduling officers have uploaded 2,951 distinct semester courses to the new SIS.
- Working with RIT’s departments and programs leadership and the Registrar’s Office, our scheduling officers have programmed 4,938 class sections for fall 2013 semester alone.
- Over 9,000 students have enrolled in classes for our first semester ever.

These are remarkable numbers that speak to our ability to ask questions; formulate answers; evaluate, plan and execute strategies; and take control of our future as a university of the first order. And they also speak to both the great individual effort and teamwork that have gone into making it all possible.

This past April, when our students started to enroll in semester courses for the first time, we held our breath. In the eyes of many, having students enroll in new courses programmed under new course scheduling patterns, using a new SIS, is the operational zenith of three years of hard work across campus. Since fall 2013 enrollment got underway, days have gone by without major scheduling issues having been reported and, as a result, each day our sense of accomplishment grows stronger. Rightly so, for back in the summer of 2010 we set out to conquer, and conquered we have. Therefore, it is fitting that we celebrate our hard work: On
August 29, 2013 at 3 PM, there will be a ceremony at Ingle Auditorium. Following the ceremony we will deposit a time capsule to commemorate our work and the beginning of a new era in the history of this great university.

All these accomplishments, impressive numbers, and thoughts reduce to one basic principle, good enough to justify RIT’s existence: We change lives by providing our students the best education. And for me, these last three years working with you reduce to two words: “Thank you.”

Dr. J. Fernando Naveda  
Director, Calendar Conversion Office