MEMORANDUM

To: The RIT student and faculty community
From: Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Subject: Postponing implementation of the plus/minus grades until 2013-2014
Date: 25 February 2010

This memorandum serves as ongoing communication to the RIT community on the consultation and implementation process for the addition of a plus/minus-grading schema to the existing whole letter grading structure at RIT. As you recall, during academic year 2008-2009, the Academic Senate studied the possible addition of plus/minus marks and, in the spring of 2009, approved a proposal to change the RIT grading structure to include a plus and minus option.

As can be expected by such a change, there was a healthy campus dialogue around the new structure and there were many in the student and faculty community who voiced support as well as those who expressed concerns about the impact of such a change. Therefore, as part of a thorough analysis of the proposal, and to ensure interested parties had a voice, I consulted with Student Government and the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate. In addition, I formed a Plus/Minus Grading Taskforce, which consists of the provost, the registrar, students and faculty. This taskforce has already provided valuable insights, observations and viewpoints and will continue to advise in the future.

We now know that the campus is committed to replacing the student information system (SIS) and converting from the quarter-based calendar to a semester-based calendar. These processes present an optimal opportunity to implement the plus/minus marks to our current grading system. Moreover, any effort to implement the plus/minus marks prior to 2013-2014 would require complete re-implementation when the new SIS and calendar come online. Consequently, RIT will postpone introducing the plus/minus marks to the current grading system until academic year 2013-2014.

As I share with you this update, please know that the process and implementation of the plus/minus grading system will continue to be based on open communication, transparency of process, and keen attention to the academic success of our students.