The following communication is from Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Colleagues,

For the past 18 months, RIT has held a number of discussions and presentations on the state of our international education aspirations. We have indicated our objectives of wanting students to graduate with a sense of international and multicultural intelligence, offering our unique brand of education to various locations in the world where we can have an impact and wanting to provide students, faculty and staff with international opportunities to enrich their time while here at RIT. Along the way, we have also provided information on the current status of our global programs, study and work abroad opportunities, exchanges and curricular windows to international education. Most importantly, we have gathered great input about what is needed to substantially move forward with internationalizing our campus.

But there is much work that needs to happen. Faculty are extremely interested in having more exchange opportunities, faculty-led study abroad opportunities and in learning how we can leverage our international students to increase our internationalization. Students are clamoring for study abroad scholarships and are in need of curricular ‘windows’ (thanks to Dr. Stan Van Horn for this terminology) that will allow them to have study or work abroad experiences. And, there are many other issues, projects and tasks we need to do.

Most universities have someone who is responsible for pushing forward an international agenda. I have heard from many of you expressing that RIT needs to have such an advocate. So a ‘next step’ – as indicated by many of you – is to create a position of leadership that will focus on international education and will work to develop international partnerships, support our continuing efforts and open new opportunities. International education is pervasive these days and there are many units across campus already engaged in international education in one form or another. A comprehensive approach is critical to our success, but such a goal can best be accomplished through collaborative leadership – a style of leadership that will pull people together for the common goal of internationalizing RIT. As a result of these ideas, it is my belief that an associate provost for international education and global programs is the right position to provide this collaborative leadership. The details of this position can be found in the position description that is posted to the Academic Affairs website (http://www.rit.edu/provost/candidate-search-associate-provost-international-education-and-global-programs). I welcome your input about this description.

I will soon form a search committee that will seek out individuals both at RIT and from the local western New York region who are superior candidates for this position. Once the committee is formed, you will also be invited to nominate individuals who you consider to be an exceptional fit for this position.

I welcome your input and suggestions for moving forward. Providing an educational experience that prepares our students for the global workplace is wired into our mission, vision and strategic plan. With the creation of this position, it is our goal to make this a reality. And, as usual, I
commit to providing you a transparent environment for this search as well as our broader efforts
to create a truly global campus.

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