

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Gerry Buckley, President and Dean, NTID
From: Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President
Subject: Concept papers for associate degrees in Biomedical Equipment
Technology and Culinary Arts
Date: May 15, 2017
Cc: William Destler, Chris Licata

President Buckley:

On behalf of President Destler and myself, I thank you and your faculty for the work you all do for the university, particularly as it pertains to the development of new academic programs. We know how much time and effort goes into writing an academic program concept paper and even more goes into the construction of an academic program. We also know that approving an academic program is an extremely serious commitment that the campus undertakes and so making sure that our review and decision-making process is as stringent as possible is a priority for me.

So thank you for submitting concept papers proposing associate degrees in in Biomedical Equipment Technology and in Culinary Arts.

By way of context, it is important to understand the recent activity with regards to new programs here at RIT. An analysis of the new program activity found on the Academic Affairs Academic Program Management website (<http://www.rit.edu/academicaffairs/academicprogrammgmt/>) indicates that there are currently over 40 programs in various states of development, more than 20 that NYSED is considering for approval and more than 15 that have been approved and operational. A minority of these programs are reaching their enrollment targets.

Also, if we look at the new program proposal trajectory prior to the moratorium (2007-2012), there were 29 additional new programs approved by NYSED during that time period alone.

This activity demonstrates RIT's creativity, ambition, and agility when creating and considering new programs.

Adding to this context is the exciting new RIT Strategic Plan “Greatness through Difference” which articulates a number of bold goals and objectives that will place RIT in the forefront of higher education. While many goals could and will shape and impact the future programs we add to the portfolio, there are some that stand out. First, there are several goals that will push the university to becoming first among private universities for the production of STEM graduates – particularly, STEM graduates from underrepresented populations. Second, we wish to increase graduate student enrollments by 30% in a fiscally prudent manner. Third, we aim to develop “T-shaped” students with capabilities in interdisciplinary problem-solving and with a range of pivotal skills often found in the liberal arts and integrated across STEM curricula. In addition, we wish to materially increase our student-centered research footprint. All of these aspirations require considerable resources and strategic decisions.

Finally, as you know, RIT will be welcoming a new president, Dr. David Munson, in July and we are anxious to know where he sees the academic portfolio going in the future.

It is in this context that I met with the President, SVP Jim Watters and SVP Jim Miller to review program proposals.

With regards to your concept papers for associate degrees in Biomedical Equipment Technology and Culinary Arts, we are not approving these program concepts to move forward at this time. We feel it is best for Dr. Munson to reflect on the academic portfolio and provide guidance as to the mixture he’d like to see regarding associate, bachelor, and graduate degrees. If, after that assessment, there is agreement that additional associate degrees are warranted, then I will be certain to work with you on the next steps.

While I regret conveying this outcome to you and your faculty, I thank you for submitting these concept papers and the work that went into its development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Haefner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs