This message is sent on behalf of Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Colleagues,

Close to eighteen months ago, the campus embarked on a journey to create the Academic Portfolio Blueprint (APB), a document that would guide the faculty and the administration as they develop academic programs over the next five years. To help us craft the APB, the Academic Senate and the provost worked together to identify a crackerjack committee consisting of faculty from all the colleges and expertise from the Division of Enrollment Management and Career Services. The team was led by professors Carole Woodlock from the College of Imaging Arts and Sciences and Risa Robinson from the Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

The charge was not typical; the committee was asked to develop both a short blueprint that would provide a set of characteristics describing the academic portfolio of programs in five years' time and a set of criteria that would help faculty and administration assess programs for inclusion in the portfolio. The trail forged by the committee was not an easy one—it involved not only difficult conversations amongst the committee members, but also countless meetings with RIT stakeholders. "Perseverance" and "true grit" are good but inadequate descriptors of the committee members' determination to meet the charge.

What emerged was a very thoughtful, well-crafted blueprint that was approved by the Academic Senate and the president in February. You can find it here. Rest assured that RIT can take exceptional pride in this document – it achieves what it is intended to do: guide the development of our academic portfolio without being prescriptive in nature. Today, I am pleased to share that the Education Core Committee formally endorsed the document at the RIT Board of Trustees' meeting last week. Finally, we now have a blueprint for our academic portfolio for programs for the next five years! Congratulations!

But of course, our work is not done. Our next task is to make sure that the Academic Portfolio Blueprint becomes integrated in our processes for new program approval and program review. As a result, I will be calling a joint meeting of the Intercollegiate Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Council in order to discuss how we might insure the proper integration of the APB into the degree approval processes.

In the meantime, it is with deep gratitude that I thank the members of the APB taskforce for their success. When you see your colleagues who served on this committee, I hope you will take a minute or two to express your appreciation for the work they did.

The Academic Portfolio Blueprint taskforce	
Member	*College/Division*
Carole Woodlock (co-chair)	College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
Risa Robinson (co-chair)	Kate Gleason College of Engineering
Ed Lincoln	Enrollment Management & Career Services
Manny Contomanolis	Office of Co-op & Career Services
Nancy Ciolek	College of Imaging Arts & Sciences
Zoran Ninkov	College of Science
DonWilson	E. Philip Saunders College of Business
Henry A. Etlinger	B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing & Information Sciences
Ferat Sahin	Kate Gleason College of Engineering
Heidi Miller	College of Health Sciences and Technology
Ann Howard	College of Liberal Arts
S. Manian Ramkumar	College of Applied Science and Technology
Gerry Bateman	National Technical Institute for the Deaf

In closing, I can only add that I am not surprised that we were so successful in this project. After all, this is RIT and we excel in so many ways.

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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