

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

Colleagues,

Dr. Clarence Burton Sheffield, Jr. "Chip" has served as the Eugene H. Fram Chair in Applied Critical Thinking during the inaugural term and has provided outstanding leadership and exemplary vision. His initial three-year appointment is nearing an end, and he has decided to return to the classroom and teaching, which he greatly loves. He strongly believes that change is important and necessary, and that a fresh perspective is vital to keep this unique position moving forward. I agree and I'm immensely grateful to him for his capable leadership and serious dedication these past two and a half years.

Moving forward, he will continue to advise his successor and the administration, as need be, as a Fram Faculty Fellow, and will help to ensure continuity and a seamless transition.

Chip has accomplished a great deal and provided a solid foundation for our future efforts. During this time period, Chip continued with his own research, scholarship and university service. Under his guidance, the annual Fram lecture was started, which has brought a distinguished group of speakers to our campus. He has raised awareness, strengthened, and elevated our conversation about critical thinking (CT) across the entire campus, which is no easy task. He has written a comprehensive draft plan to integrate CT across our undergraduate curriculum. Workshops for faculty, staff, and students have been conducted, and he has provided timely and helpful feedback to various campus-wide constituencies regarding CT. This past July, he led a faculty team to the AAC&U Summer Institute on Integrated Learning Across Departments, and he has sponsored related programming, and engaged in community and regional outreach, in addition to maintaining close communications with the anonymous donor, and the honoree. In short, he has been a stalwart proponent for RIT's ambitions with respect to applied critical thinking. I am very pleased with the results. Fortunately, his efforts have received impressive national and international attention. It is my hope that this is just the beginning.

In the next few weeks, I will announce the search for Chip's replacement. This vacancy will start with the fall semester 2015. It is a three-year appointment, with the possibility of renewal. All full-time faculty with tenure are eligible and strongly encouraged to

consider applying, regardless of rank, department, or scholarly expertise. The position reports directly to the Office of the Provost, and it is supported administratively through the division of Academic Affairs. A search committee will be convened in January and a formal call for applicants and nominations will occur in February. It is my expectation that I will announce the recipient before the end of this academic year.

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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