

-----Original Message-----

From: Koppin, Sheila Doyle [BOARD]

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:54 PM

To: 'Carroll, Nicole'; Craig Lang (calangfarm@gmail.com); Dave Miles; 'Downer, Robert'; 'Harkin, Ruth'; Jack Evans; Johnson, Greta A; 'Mulholland, Katie'; 'Rastetter, Bruce'

Subject: FW: UNI Faculty Senate

Importance: High

Regents,

Executive Director Donley asked that I forward to you the note below and the attachment. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Sheila

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeffrey Funderburk [mailto:jeffrey.funderburk@uni.edu]

Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:51 PM

To: bdonley@iastate.edu

Cc: Scott.Peters@uni.edu; Jeffrey Funderburk; karen.breitbach@uni.edu

Subject: UNI Faculty Senate

Mr. Donley,

On behalf of the UNI Faculty Senate, I have been directed to forward the attached statement to the Board of Regents prior to its meeting this week.

Jeffrey Funderburk

Chair, UNI Faculty Senate 2011-12

Passed by the UNI Faculty Senate
Monday, March 19, 2012

On behalf of the Faculty of the University of Northern Iowa, and to confirm its commitment to protecting the integrity of both the University's academic program in its entirety and the curricular process by which it is reviewed and changed, the University Faculty Senate requests that the Board of Regents grant additional time for the University administration to work with the University Faculty to re-consider the University administration's recommendations for (a) academic program closures, suspensions, and restructuring and (b) the plan devised for terminating faculty positions in programs recommended for closure, suspension, or restructuring.

- a. Deferring program closures, suspensions, and restructuring would provide time for comprehensive review of how each targeted program's courses serve multiple curricular and student needs and for reflective restructuring, combinations, or closures based on thorough and deliberate consideration of such pertinent evidence.
- b. Re-consideration of the plan for terminating faculty positions in programs recommended for closure, suspension, or restructuring could occur naturally if action on these recommendations was deferred. This would provide opportunity to consider and devise viable alternatives, possibly including a voluntary early retirement plan featuring incentives for faculty near, at, or beyond retirement age. This, in turn, could result in significant savings in salary and fringe benefits.

Granting additional time for thorough consultations between the University administration and University Faculty will significantly reduce the jeopardy in which precipitous action would place the university's overall baccalaureate degree programs. Granting additional time would also enable more thorough and comprehensive deliberation that potentially could (a) address budget exigencies more effectively, (b) strengthen academic programs across the spectrum of intellectual disciplines and consistent with the university's mission and strategic plan, and (c) continue to serve fully the academic interests and vocational goals of UNI's current and future students.

Deliberate consideration of viable alternatives to the University administration's recommendations is needed to insure the best outcomes for the University's academic programs and its budgetary challenges. Faculty members are committed to joining such discussions with the University administration in good faith and with unflagging commitment to the University's overall academic strength and excellence.