

TO: PPC Subcommittee Members

FROM: Kay Norton

RE: Academic Structure Recommendations

DATE: Nov. 17, 2008

First, please accept my thanks for the work you completed last semester. I appreciate the time and energy you invested, particularly in collecting feedback about the school structure from so many faculty and administrators. I have consulted at length with Provost Harraf about your recommendations, and we would like to meet with you to discuss how we will move forward.

The structure that resulted from Charting the Future in some areas has become a distraction from the original goals to enhance research and creative scholarship opportunities and connect the liberal arts and sciences with professional preparation programs. I am open to making changes that will address the unintended difficulties some areas now face.

I do not believe there is an appropriate one-size-fits-all structure for UNC's academic programs, so I will be asking each college to build on the work you have done, assess any other needs of the college, and make a recommendation about structure. In addition to meeting the college's needs, any changes must maintain the quality of academic programs and support the Academic Plan goals without requiring new funding. The Provost will work with the deans and their colleges as they develop a process that ensures the involvement of a broad cross-section of the college. He will also review draft recommendations with each college before they are submitted to me.

To avoid imposing on you during the busiest time of the semester, I propose we meet Thursday, Jan. 22, from 8 to 9 a.m. or 4 to 5 p.m., whenever more members are available. Please reply with your preference by Friday, Nov. 21. I look forward to our meeting.