

September 22, 2008

Dear UDMPU Officers and Members,

This letter is to acknowledge the support and shared responsibility of the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the McNichols Faculty Assembly, and the UDMPU to carrying out the spirit and intent of shared governance. Since being appointed as Vice President for Academic Affairs I have demonstrated a commitment to shared governance through my work with the Clearinghouse, which includes the MFA Leadership. During the 2007-2008 Academic year there have been many opportunities for me to receive suggestions and comments from the McNichols Faculty Assembly and its members and for me to respond to their recommendations and shared concerns. I have appreciated the willingness to work collegially and to speak freely.

I want to confirm that I will continue to build on the foundation already established of seeking input from the McNichols Faculty Assembly in the spirit of shared governance. The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs recognizes that the MFA seeks to remain consistently informed about activities that impact on the faculty of the McNichols Campus. When appropriate, I will provide information to the Clearinghouse to share with the MFA and seek their participation in the decision making process.

Correspondingly, it is vitally important in the shared governance environment that the MFA leadership and members recognize that seeking feedback from and communicating with the Office of Academic Affairs is part of their primary responsibilities. The MFA has a responsibility also to provide information to the Clearinghouse as part of the decision making process. Both the MFA and I recognize that the Office of Academic Affairs and the University President are ultimately responsible for the academic side of the university.

The Office of Vice President for Academic Affairs is committed to the framework of shared governance, which is the basis for recognizing the role of the MFA in such areas as the transfer of a program from one college to another or when an academic program is considered for an entirely different mode of delivery, such as the online format. It is acknowledged that the faculty has the primary responsibility for such fundamental areas as curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status (excluding hiring and termination decisions), the promotion and tenure process and academic/program standards. It is anticipated that the MFA and the Office of Academic Affairs, which I currently represent, will continue to dialogue and identify strategies to work together to protect the goals of the Shared Governance and academic quality that is important to the University and its mission.

Sincerely,

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Interim Academic Vice President and Provost