



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

TO: University Senate
FROM: Eric W. Kaler, Provost and Senior Vice President
DATE: October 5, 2009

REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

ACADEMIC REVIEW OF THE FRANK MELVILLE JR. MEMORIAL LIBRARY

I recently commissioned an external review of the Melville Library on September 27-29, 2009, with the goals of:

1. Evaluation of the organization and management of the library;
2. Bench marking of resources and their allocation, particularly in regards to print vs. electronic Resources; and
3. Commenting on the relationship between Melville and the HSC library.

The external review team consisted of: Susan Brynteson (Chair), Vice Provost and May Morris Director of Libraries, University of Delaware Library; Anne Kenney, Carl A. Kroch University Librarian, Cornell University Library; Brinley Franklin, Vice Provost, University of Connecticut Libraries; and James Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, Columbia University.

This review included meetings with various library administrative and faculty groups, general university faculty, DoIT administrators, and members of our academic review committee. As part of this process, and in an effort to gather a more comprehensive assessment of library resources, we administered a brief survey to faculty and graduate students with the purpose of soliciting their feedback on the library organization, staffing and holdings. These groups were also asked to provide written comments on these matters to my attention. The culmination of the information that will be provided in the External Reviewers' Report, the institutional survey and comments received will provide us with a current evaluation and perspective on our library and its operations. I expect to receive the report of the visiting committee within a few weeks.

DISCUSSION/DECISION-MAKING REGARDING SBU SONGDO

Last month, Deputy Provost Brent Lindquist, presented a status report to the Senate on plans to develop a Stony Brook campus in the Incheon Free Economic Zone in South Korea. Open

discussion surrounding this issue began in September 2009. The following is the current schedule of public presentations/discussions:

- Sept 9: Library Directors Council
- Sept 14: University Senate ***
- Sept 16: College of Business Faculty
- Sept 23: Electrical and Computer Engineering Faculty
- Oct 2: CAPRA ***
- Oct 6: Graduate Council ***
- Oct 7: Computer Science
- Oct 7: Undergraduate Council ***
- Oct 8: West Campus Chairs
- Oct 12: Tech & Society Faculty

*** University Senate/Senate Committee

Please provide Brent Lindquist with the names of any additional persons or groups from whom he should be soliciting input as we continue to develop plans for this new international campus. In terms of decision-making, we expect to begin our presentations to President Stanley starting January 2010.

SEARCH FOR DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

As I outlined in my recent letter to the faculty, I am aware of the sweep of rumors about the College organization. The reality is pretty straightforward. Our new president intends to have a comprehensive strategic planning process, and it seems to me natural to imagine that some reorganization of the colleges will be on the table. Frankly, I don't imagine that any reorganization would be dramatic, but the prospect puts me in the difficult position of proceeding with a search for a new dean of Arts and Sciences and not being able to discuss with him or her concretely what the job will encompass. So I have decided to suspend the Dean's search until at least the first of the year. Nancy Squires, who has stepped into the job with tremendous energy and expertise, has agreed to serve until which time a permanent Dean is appointed. I am confident that her leadership, together with the help of a strong team of Associate Deans, will serve us well as we move through these challenging times.