



University of Colorado at Boulder

Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

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December 01, 2010

Dear Chancellor DiStefano:

I am writing to provide you with my recommendations regarding the discontinuance of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC).

Background

On November 01, 2010, I received the first draft of the SJMC Discontinuance Committee's (SJMC/DC) report and recommendations. I accepted the final version of this report on November 17, 2010. In addition, over the last several months I have met with, and/or received written and verbal input from, a variety of internal and external constituents regarding the pros and cons of discontinuing the SJMC for the purposes of strategic realignment. All of this information helped to inform the recommendations that I am making to you. It is my strongest opinion that the SJMC/DC report was superbly and thoughtfully crafted, and it captures the essence of the key arguments for program discontinuance. Insofar as my responsibility is to make a simple recommendation to you on the sole issue of SJMC discontinuance, I am only providing you with two key recommendations.

Recommendations

- 1. I recommend the discontinuance of the SJMC in its present structure, for the purpose of 'strategic realignment' as opposed to 'budgetary' reasons.** Per the SJMC/DC report (pp. 2, Recommendation 2), the discontinuance should be implemented *"...to permit a strategic realignment of degree programs, faculty, and other resources to better serve the collective interests of the Boulder campus as a whole"*.
- 2. Should you approve the discontinuance of the SJMC in its present form, I recommend that a guiding principle of the strategic realignment be that journalism education and scholarship be strongly aligned with and grounded in the academic traditions of other liberal arts disciplines on our campus.** This recommendation is congruent with the SJMC/DC's statement (pp. 4) that *"If Journalism is construed more broadly as a profession whose essential skills are not designing ads or producing a news story, but rather gathering information relevant to society and democratic governance at all levels from local to global, thinking critically in the interpretation and analysis of that information, and finally conveying that information to multiple audiences faithfully and effectively, then a case can be made that journalism education does have a place with other liberal arts disciplines in a comprehensive research university. Having heard from a wide variety of sources, we are convinced that this broader conception of journalism education can and should be part of the campus curriculum."*

The SJMC/DC made several recommendations that are pertinent to the issues of strategic realignment, and the fate of the tenure track SJMC faculty in the event the recommendation for discontinuance is embraced and acted upon. The SJMC/DC recommended (pp 2-3) that:

- a) the current tenure track faculty be reassigned to other tenure homes;
- b) some or all of the degree programs currently housed in the SJMC be continued or offered in a revised form under different administrative auspices;
- c) the current structure of the SJMC should be eliminated on a date stipulated by the CU Board of Regents (if discontinuance is approved by the board).

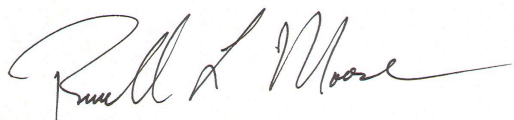
With regard to SJMC/DC recommendations b) and c) as stated, I am in general agreement with them and I would recommend that they be embraced as guiding principles during the strategic realignment process that will follow the discontinuance.

With regard to SJMC/DC recommendation a) as stated, I view this as a forceful recapitulation of a portion of the University of Colorado Board of Regents Policy 4.H.5. that states "*Before terminating the appointment of a faculty member with tenure because of program discontinuance, reasonable efforts will be made to find another suitable position for the faculty member within the university.*" While I agree in principle with the verbatim recommendation of the SJMC/DC, I feel that it is more appropriate to defer to the Regential policy as stated, and to which we are bound.

The work of the SJMC/DC and my recommendations leave unanswered the question of what structure on our campus will be optimally suited to achieve the goals of this discontinuance. The answer to this question will derive from the work of the ICT Exploratory Committee, and I have every confidence that this group will provide us with viable structural options by the early spring of 2011.

If you have any questions regarding my recommendations, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell L. Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Russell L. Moore
Provost, and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Cc AVC Jeff Cox