



Office of the Chancellor

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January 10, 2011 (Revised February 2, 2011)

Memorandum

TO: President Bruce Benson

FROM: Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano *Philip P. DiStefano*

RE: The Discontinuance of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC)

I am writing you to provide you with my recommendation regarding the discontinuance of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Process to Date

Sept. 1, 2010	In accordance with the University's Administrative Policy Statement, I initiated the process of program discontinuance to explore whether the SJMC should be continued, ended or reorganized.
Nov. 17, 2010	The Program Discontinuance Committee established by the Provost issued its report and recommended discontinuance of the present structure of the SJMC in order to <i>"permit a strategic realignment of degree programs, faculty, and other resources to better serve the collective interests of the Boulder Campus as a whole."</i>
Dec. 1, 2010	Provost Moore provided his recommendation for discontinuing the SJMC for purpose of <i>"strategic realignment"</i> so that <i>"journalism education and scholarship can be strongly aligned with and grounded in the academic traditions of other liberal arts disciplines on campus."</i>

For a complete overview of the process to date, including the opportunities for input by faculty, staff, students, alumni and others, please see the Academic Affairs website at <http://academicaffairs.colorado.edu/academicreview>.

Recommendations

1. **I recommend the discontinuance of the SJMC in its present structure, for the purpose of strategic realignment.** I concur with the recommendations of the Provost and the Program

Discontinuance Committee that some or all of the degree programs currently housed in SJMC be continued or offered in a revised form under a different administrative structure. The University will honor its commitment to our undergraduate and master's candidate students currently majoring in journalism, and allow them to graduate through their existing academic programs or some new alternative structure. With regard to the current tenure track faculty in SJMC, the University will follow Regent Policy 4.H.5, which states, *"before terminating the appointment of a faculty member with tenure because of discontinuance, reasonable efforts will be made to find another suitable position for the faculty member within the university."*

2. **I recommend that journalism education and scholarship be aligned with and grounded in the academic traditions of other liberal arts disciplines and remain a part of the campus curriculum.** The Provost and I expect to receive recommendations from the Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) Exploratory Committee regarding how the existing campus ICT assets (i.e., faculty, funding, facilities, etc.) might be organized to create a contemporary ICT program that will serve our students in the future, and that will place an emphasis on ICT research and scholarship. Depending on the final recommendations of the Exploratory Committee and the future costs associated with a new contemporary ICT program, the University, at the very least, will provide future undergraduate students with an opportunity to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in a liberal arts discipline along with a minor or certification in journalism studies that will prepare them for opportunities in media studies. During the transition period, as the campus terminates the Bachelor of Science Degree in Journalism, the Provost and his staff will work with faculty and professionals in the field to develop curriculum that will meet the demands of journalism in the digital media age.

Based upon the University Administrative Policy on Program Discontinuance, you have sixty (60) days to make your recommendation to the Board of Regents. Provost Moore and I are certainly willing to meet with you to clarify any points in our recommendations.

CC: Russell Moore, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Jeffrey Cox, Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs