Dear Faculty Colleagues,

Recently I wrote to you about the formation a Faculty Select Panel on Growth and Quality that the Senate Executive Leadership has convened as part of a broader process of Strategic Planning in the Faculty Senate. Briefly, I want to place that initiative in the context of the other leadership initiatives that are ongoing.

This year, Faculty Senate Executive Leadership (the elected officers of the Senate) will continue to build on the work of the existing Senate leadership initiative model as a way to devote specific energy and attention to overarching issues that exist in addition to the regular work of the Senate governance system. (For information about last year’s work, see here; for a report on the progress and results of last year's leadership initiatives, see here.)

These initiatives are in response to faculty input and feedback and have been developed this year in conjunction with the satisfaction survey of Faculty Senators, and Senate team, committee, and council members last year, as well as ongoing conversations, deliberations, and debates in and around Senate. This year's Leadership Initiatives are:

1. **Shared Governance Initiative.** This joint effort among leaders of faculty, administration, staff, and student government is working to establish a single consensus definition of shared governance on campus – a definition that the campus community can refer to and use as a guide for governance operations at all levels of the institution.

2. **Survey of Faculty Perceptions of Chairs’ and Deans’ Performance.** Last year this survey was successfully conducted with a joint commitment from representatives of Faculty Senate, the Council of Deans, and the Council of Chairs, working with the support and resources provided by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, to continue improving the process and readminister the survey this year. The focus in the coming weeks will be on making any necessary adjustments to the instrument used last year and to ensuring that advisors are able to provide feedback about the associate or assistant deans who serve as direct supervisors. The survey will be administered in the Spring 2013 semester.

3. **Faculty Select Panel on Growth and Quality.** This initiative was described in detail in a recent email I sent to all faculty. That email is available for your reference here.

Updates and information related to these initiatives is available on the Faculty Senate homepage under the Leadership Initiatives page. You should also be hearing from you individual college's senators about additional strategic planning processes that are ongoing in Senate and are complementary to the initiatives described above. Regarding these and any other efforts within Senate, please contact Senate officers or any of your Senate representatives with questions or comments now or in the future.

Sincerely,
Douglas Harrison