

From the Desktop of the Chancellor

October 1, 2003

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to let you know that we have again achieved our ambitious goal to increase enrollment by at least 3 percent per year. The increase this fall will actually total 3.4 percent, with the total number of students enrolled topping 9,000 for the first time in the history of the campus. While we are still sorting out some of the numbers, it is clear that our undergraduate total is up by more than 100 students, while graduate enrollment increased by more than 200 students. Equally important, incoming students had higher ACT scores and GPAs this fall. Increasing our enrollment is key to creating the kind of university we feel the University of Michigan-Dearborn can be with a larger faculty, student body, and staff supporting a larger curriculum. We can all take pride in this important accomplishment.

As I am sure you are aware, within a few months two very important buildings will become a part of our campus. There is growing excitement about the University Center which will open late this semester. You may have also heard that we have completed the acquisition of the former Fairlane Training and Development Center. As a part of the agreement with the Ford Motor Company, we have officially renamed the facility Fairlane Center. We will begin using the Fairlane Center for classes next semester. Both the University Center and the Fairlane Center are wonderful additions to our campus.

And in another historic development for the campus, we have just completed the important visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Once every 10 years, HLC visits campus to consider our accreditation as a university. I extend thanks to everyone who took the time to meet and openly discuss the University with the visitation team. I am happy to let everyone know that the team gave a very positive report this morning at the conclusion of their visit. They are not only recommending continued accreditation for 10 years, but also indicated that their final report will identify several areas where we could be considered models for others in higher education.

We owe a large amount of gratitude to Provost Robert Simpson, Associate Provost Charlotte Otto, and the team that has worked so hard on the self-study and the details of the site visit. So many people contributed to this effort, but I want to especially thank those directly associated with this important work:

Linda Brown, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Office of Registrar
Elaine Clark, Co-Chair, Professor, Social Sciences
Dave Cunningham, Assistant Director, Financial Services and Budget
Julie A. Dziekan, Associate Dean, School of Management
Terry A. Gallagher, Director, University Relations
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Brooks Hull, Professor, Social Sciences
Kathryn Anderson-Levitt, Interim Dean, CASL
Charlotte A. Otto, Co-Chair, Associate Provost
Julie Tigani, Staff Support, Provost's Office

Respectfully,

Daniel Little