



MEMORANDUM

TO: Professor Jennifer English, Faculty Senate President

FROM: Vistasp M. Karbhari, Provost and Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Resolution 10/11-2

DATE: January 3, 2011

While the topic of this resolution is still under discussion and I have had one meeting with interested faculty and I am awaiting the participants scheduling of a second meeting to discuss the topic further, I am writing to formally document a response to the resolution per your request.

I applaud the Senate's interest in developing a means for faculty to discuss and bring up topics of concern related to research and scholarly activities. Such activities are, indeed, extremely important to the faculty and I share the Senate's interest in further encouraging faculty to enhance their activities in these areas, and I share the opinion that the university should attempt to minimize obstacles that could decrease faculty effectiveness in these areas. However, as we have discussed, the scope of the resolution appears extremely broad and overlaps with the activities of committees already in existence.

Further, as I understand it from the first meeting, the primary objective of the resolution is to enhance faculty input and participation in the Research Council and in university level research activities. As I had mentioned I believe the Vice-President for Research is also interested in enhancing faculty participation in research council meetings and I encourage the Senate Leadership to speak to him about mechanisms that could be put in place to enable a greater level of faculty input and discussions. Simultaneously, I look forward to our next meeting and to further discussing issues of concern, hearing ideas as to how this could be achieved, and discussing a path forward. Please contact Ms. Peggy Bower when you would like to meet again to continue our discussions on this topic.