




November 29, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Bley-Vroman
Dean, LLL

FROM: Reed Dasenbrock 
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Program Review Three-Year Progress Report

Thank you for your memo of November 3rd giving a three-year progress report on actions taken in response to the Program Review of 2007-2008. I am impressed by the progress that has been made and commend you and the college for all of the hard work.

I have a few comments on aspects of the report. The progress on developing a faculty workload policy is important, and I am glad to see the development of a consistent approach which brings the departments of the college into greater alignment. The annual workload reporting system is an important step in the right direction, so I commend you for doing this. I do think the threshold of 60 ssh for triggering a 3-3 workload in IPLL looks too low: if I am understanding this right, you could reach this with an average enrollment of 4 students per class. I am sensitive to the challenge of offering the many 'lesser taught languages' that we offer in LLL, and we do need to do everything we can to keep these offerings in place.

The steps taken to support the research mission of the College all make sense. I do think getting grant-related personnel into LLL would be an important future step, and will be happy to take any such plans to VCRGE Ostrander for his support.

I commend the College for your progress on high-demand courses, and I appreciate the flexibility which is being shown on the issue of placement testing, given how key this is to making our premier registration project for incoming freshmen completely operational.

I share your sense that challenges remain in terms of undergraduate advising, particularly the seam between departmental advising and advising at CASSAS. I do believe that this issue demands our attention over the near and intermediate term.

An issue that has come up in the follow-up on program review in another college is the conversation between SLS and COE about a program that could give teaching licensure for graduates of the SLS B.A. We think this is an important bridge between programs and colleges and hope that you will be proactive in investigating the possibilities of this partnership.

All in all, this is an excellent report that shows serious, sustained, and strongly successful efforts to respond to issues identified in the Program Review. LLL is in a strong position heading into the next Program Review, which is scheduled for 2012-2013.