Date: December 30, 2010

To: Julia Wallace, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

From: Scott Furlong, Dean of the College Liberal Arts and Sciences

Re: Report on the Economics Program Review

I have examined the Self-Study Report prepared by the Economics program and the Program Review conducted by the Academic Affairs Council. Based on my examination of these materials I recommend continuation of the program. Specific comments that I made to the Economics faculty include the following:

1. Enrollments, particularly at the lower level and within the upper level core classes are strong. I noted some concern with some of the enrollments in the upper level electives and suggested potentially decreasing the number of choices in this area until the number of majors dictates greater need. Economics provides an extremely important service to the Business program especially in offering micro and macroeconomics and serving as a minor for many of their students. I find it interesting, though, that other upper level economics classes do not meet any requirements within the Business program.

2. Two Economics faculty are named professors and thus show the strength of the program's scholarship. There has been some success in the area of outside grant development particularly as it relates to EMBI.

3. Faculty resources remain consistent. There is an interest by Economics, which I support, to increase the quantitative aspects of the program. They are also considering development emphases with the major. This may be a good idea if they have the number of majors to support this. Economics offers a number of their courses through alternative means. They nearly have enough courses offered alternatively to offer a minor. I encouraged them to pursue a streamlined minor that can be offered this way to support Adult Degree and particularly the alternatively delivered Business program.

4. Economics needs to do a better job with their assessment plan. They are aware of this and appear to be moving in a direction to implement an assessment plan.

5. The self-study and AAC noted an area of concern that Economics is somewhat constrained due to it "reporting" to three different interdisciplinary units. Why I understand this concern, it is not unique and is typical for many of our disciplinary programs.

6. It is likely that Economics will have a few retirements in the coming years and the program should think about the expertise areas they would want to replace these faculty.