Date: April 6, 2011

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 English Program Review

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

1. English is a large major that also provides a number of courses to our general education program. Their course enrollments are large, particularly when taking into consideration the amount of writing associated with the classes.

2. English is working on developing an assessment model that will use student papers written in one of their lower level theory/methods courses as one baseline and then another upper level course later in the student’s career. This direct measure of student learning outcomes will be used with existing senior surveys.

3. The program understands its particular focus and strengths and still provides a good range of courses for their majors/minor. This includes offerings in offerings in World Literature where the faculty is seeing a growing interest. As noted in the last program review, there may be a concern about the number of preparations faculty are doing to provide this diversity of courses. The self-study acknowledges this, but also states that the preference of the faculty is to teach these different courses. The effect is that the faculty have more preparations, but are excited about teaching different material and the students have a wider array of courses in which to choose.

4. The English Program will be involved in the newly created American Studies emphasis within Humanistic Studies, which uses existing curriculum. They also have expressed an interest in a Film Studies minor (or emphasis). I would support this with the understanding that new faculty resources are likely not available at this time.