

MEMORANDUM

TO: JMU Faculty and Staff
FROM: Douglas T. Brown, Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: Organizational Changes
DATE: November 1, 2007

As you know, during the last academic year I began a reorganization of my senior staff in order to improve the coordination of major program areas. At that time, I appointed Dr. Teresa Gonzalez to the position of Vice Provost overseeing the College of Arts and Letters and the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Dr. Gonzalez also has, under her purview, program and curriculum approval, as well as, the Registrar's Office and certain student support services.

After conferring with the Board of Visitors, the President, and other major constituents I am now ready to move forward with additional appointments. As of November 1, 2007 Dr. Jerry Benson will assume the position of Vice Provost. Dr. Benson is my most senior Dean and has proven himself to be a consummate leader. All programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and the Health professions will fall under Dr. Benson's area of responsibility. I am confident that Dr. Benson through his leadership will aid the University in further establishing the centrality of the STEM programs to our Mission. Dr. Benson will be responsible for assembling a team of senior administrators who will develop a strategic plan for our STEM programs into the next decade. At the same time another group will begin the process of implementing a strategic plan for the Health professions which may eventually lead to the formation of a new Health College. A third group under Dr. Benson's leadership will be responsible for creating a strategic plan for the Life Sciences including all aspects of Biology and Biotechnology.

An interim Dean will be appointed to oversee the College of Integrated Science and Technology.

Dr. John Noftsinger who is currently Associate Vice President for Research and Public Service also will assume the role of Vice Provost as of November 1, 2007. Dr. Noftsinger currently oversees Research Development, Sponsored Programs, Economic Development, Technology Transfer, Congressional and Federal Relations, our strategic alliances like SRI, and some of our Centers and Institutes. In his new role he will assume responsibility for the Center for Assessment and Research Studies and our Outreach Programs. He also will be responsible for three new Centers, The Mine Action Information Center, the International Beliefs and Values Institute (IBAVI), and the James Madison Center.

This is a very exciting time in the history of James Madison University. It is critical that the coordination structure for academic programs be efficient, promote communication at all levels, and be responsive to the size and diversity of our programs. Therefore you may be assured that I am committed to identifying leadership that will enhance the ability of each faculty and staff member to realize their potential and to be an integral part of the academic community at James Madison University.

