



OHIO UNIVERSITY

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To: Sergio Lopez-Permouth, Chair, Faculty Senate

From: Kathy A. Krendl, Executive Vice President and Provost

Subject: Faculty Workload

I write in response to the Faculty Senate Resolution on Faculty Workload which passed the Senate at the April 16, 2007 meeting. The important issue of workload was identified as being of primary concern during the development of the Vision OHIO academic plan. Faculty who participated in that process noted that many of the current and future goals of the University require a clear articulation of a fair and balanced workload policy. I concur. The University does need such a policy. In pursuit of this objective, the Executive Committee met in 2006 and 2007 on a regular basis with representatives of the deans to study the issues. These discussions centered on possible models from other institutions and also identified key elements that would need to be included in a workload policy at Ohio University. Several drafts of potential workload policies were written and circulated to important faculty constituencies such as chairs and directors.

At the time these drafts were circulating, during January and February, President McDavis acting on the recommendations of a number of academic plan implementation teams convened a Task Force on the Academic Calendar and System. The group includes the five-member Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the four Faculty Senate committee chairs, two Athens campus deans, one regional campus dean, the chair of the Chairs and Directors group, the presidents of Student Senate and Graduate Student Senate, and the chairs of the Administrative and Classified senates. The task force is to make a recommendation early in the summer on how best to approach Ohio University's future academic calendar. As the chair of the task force, Phyllis Bernt, has noted, the issue of whether to change the timing and the system of our academic year is very complex and any recommendation must support the university's competitive position in all realms including that of faculty workload.

The task force is slated to wrap up its work shortly. Given that this important recommendation is forthcoming, it is possible that further work will need to be done on a faculty workload policy. Consequently I am declining to sign the Senate resolution on faculty workload at this time. In making this decision, I am focusing on the potential need for alignment if a switch is made to a new calendar and system. If the calendar and system do change, the deans, representative chairs and directors, and I will work with designated members of Faculty Senate to formulate a workload policy

that makes us competitive with our peers in recruiting and retaining the best faculty. What I will ask of any future resolution on faculty workload is that it be fully reflective in content and language of any document produced and approved by a joint working group of deans, representative chairs and directors, and designees of Faculty Senate.