

Dear Colleagues:

I have reached a decision about the proposed realignment of the five Regional Campuses, University College, and University Outreach and wanted to take this opportunity to share it with you.

Based on recommendations forwarded from the campuses in the form of a letter from Executive Dean Dan Evans

<http://www.ohio.edu/provost/upload/EVPP-Restructuring-Regional-Campuses-WEB.pdf>

and on my own review of the possible advantages inherent in the proposal, I have elected to pursue the creation of an administrative structure that unites the Regional Campuses and University Outreach under a single organizational unit. University College will not join this administrative structure, but my expectation is that its currently fruitful collaborations with the Regional Campuses and University Outreach on critical matters such as educational access, student services, and student success will be expanded and enriched.

The original restructuring proposal was designed to bolster the philosophy of “one university” that envisioned the faculty and staff of the Regional Campuses and the Athens campus building a strong partnership around a shared commitment to excellent degree programs, optimal conditions for student success, and regular consultation and communication. I am heartened by the progress on this pivotal partnership, but additional advances must be made.

Based on the work done by the Task Force on the Future of Regional Campuses (2008) and the Undergraduate and Regional Education Study Team (2009), the Regional Campuses believe that the best model for moving forward on these issues would be by means of a “continuous improvement team.”

Such a team would have representation from across the university. It would be charged with prioritizing the recommendations of the aforementioned planning groups, setting goals, and ensuring that those goals were met. A timeline for the creation of the “continuous improvement team” will be developed after further consultation with the regional deans and their faculty and staff.

The merger of the Regional Campuses and University Outreach into a single organizational unit will begin in mid-June when Charles Bird, the Vice Provost for University Outreach, begins his transition to retirement. The alignment of the two units will provide an opportunity to build on the strong foundations established by Dr. Bird and his staff.

It is my expectation that combining the units will result in greater efficiencies and create an opportunity to review how the work of University Outreach can maintain academic quality, expand access to a wide variety of student populations, create services needed by all colleges and campuses, and increase revenue.

I want to thank the faculty, staff, and leadership of the Regional Campuses, University College, and University Outreach for the work that they have done in reviewing the restructuring possibilities. I am encouraged by the academic prospects that this restructuring presents for the Regional Campuses, University Outreach, and the Athens campus, and especially for the faculties of all the campuses, to collaborate on advancing the core educational mission of Ohio University.

Sincerely,

Pam Benoit
Executive Vice President and Provost