



University of Pittsburgh

SEP 12 2011

Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor

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Patricia E. Beeson
Provost
Senior Vice Chancellor

September 6, 2011

Dr. Alfred L. Moyé
Chair, Information Sciences Board of Visitors
124 Gramercy Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402-1215

Dear Al:

Thank you for chairing the Fall 2010 meeting of the School of Information Sciences Board of Visitors. On behalf of Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg and myself, I am pleased to respond to the report of the November 15-16, 2010 meeting.

I note the continuing growth in applications to the MLIS program and the Board's concern over the sustainability of such a trend in light of an apparently receding market for traditional librarians. Clearly, the School is taking proactive steps to expand the employment prospects for its graduates through its evolution as an information school, and I look forward to the Board's ongoing assessment of the School's success in this endeavor. I also note the Board's interest in undergraduate admissions, retention, and graduation rates in the BSIS program.

As you know, the University is taking steps to better support industry-sponsored research, including hiring an industrial liaison and reviewing our policies regarding faculty commercialization of their inventions. I appreciate the Board's encouragement to SIS to seek ways to institutionalize support for entrepreneurship and related activities that often are relegated to the interests and passions of a few.

Your report also notes that the School's repurposing of its 8th floor computer laboratory as an interactive teaching and learning facility is \$150K short of the funds estimated to complete the project, and that a proposal had been submitted to my office to close the gap. I am pleased to confirm that I was able to be of assistance with this project, and that Facilities Management anticipates the major renovations to be completed by the end of 2011. As suggested by the Board's interest in issues of IT infrastructure development and support, these are critical not only to the success of the School of Information Sciences, but also to the University at large. It is a topic you express interest

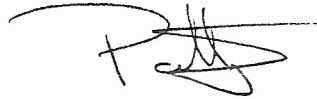
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in addressing in greater detail at a future Board meeting, and one for which I would welcome the Board's perspective.

In the closed session we had together, I was pleased to hear your positive assessment of the progress the School has made over the past five years. High quality faculty are central to the success of any such venture, so I was encouraged by your enthusiasm for the new faculty in the School and the recognition of the strategic role they play in the evolution of the School.

I continue to be impressed with the breadth and depth of insight the Board members generously contribute under your leadership. You continue to provide an exceptionally useful assessment of progress and an outline of the issues facing the School that I know Dean Larsen and his colleagues value highly. All in all, I thank you for your work and share your enthusiasm for both the progress the School has made and its prospects for the future. We look forward to the upcoming fall meeting on October 31 and November 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia E. Beeson', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Patricia E. Beeson

PEB/plj

cc: Stephen R. Tritch
Mark A. Nordenberg
Ronald L. Larsen ✓
Jean Ferketish