



November 16, 2009

Dear Members of the Reaccreditation Teams:

As we announce the formal results of our institutional reaccreditation, I wanted to send you a message of appreciation as well as an update. The president of the Higher Learning Commission recently sent formal approval of our reaccreditation. The site team report, which highly praises our self-study and the accomplishments of this institution, and final approval letter will be posted shortly on the www.greatu.wisc.edu website.

When I began my position as provost a few months ago, it was a great gift to me to start the job with the institutional self-study and the momentum from the April site team visit underway. The self-study, *For Wisconsin and the World*, is an extraordinary document. We received accolades from our site team who found it to be a model report. From day one as provost, and including a campus-wide meeting of department chairs just last week, I have been heralding the value of the document you created and urging people to read it if they want to know what UW-Madison is all about.

As you know, *For Wisconsin and the World* served as the foundation for our new campus Strategic Framework. That document is serving to communicate our vision, values and priorities and, more importantly, to help us focus our actions, decisions and allocation of resources. All schools/colleges and many administrative units now have strategic plans aligned with the campus plan, which are available online at www.chancellor.wisc.edu/strategicplan. Many of the ideas you generated are reflected in those plans.

We also recognized that many of the boldest ideas from *For Wisconsin and the World* and the Strategic Framework were things that would not happen unit by unit, but require a cross-campus approach. Julie Underwood, as interim provost, led a process to help identify some of those initiatives. I have been the beneficiary of that list of initiatives and have used it as a road map since I arrived. It is an evolving document that we intend to update continuously as we work to define some of the more complex opportunities. A current working version is attached. Each of the cross-campus initiatives has identified leaders who are charged with developing a charter to define the effort. I use this with my team of vice provosts and staff to determine their priorities and to share our meeting agendas. I also use this list to communicate to campus audiences what are the important issues to address, as I did with campus department chairs a few weeks ago.

I know that many of you are engaged in these efforts, even as initiators. I'm sure there are others I am not aware of who contributed in formal and informal ways. Please know you have already done more than your part to get us to this point, but if you see or hear about efforts that you are interested in engaging in, please do not hesitate to email me.

I am acutely aware of the extraordinary effort you expended to this point and wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that as your new provost, even though it all happened before I was in this seat, I am an enthusiastic supporter of your efforts and hope to bring many of your ideas into reality. I am extraordinarily appreciative of the gift you produced for the future of our great university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul M. DeLuca, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Paul M. DeLuca, Jr.
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs