

January 24, 2011

Michael Grillo  
President, Faculty Senate  
205 East Annex  
Campus

Lord Hall  
Campus

Dear Michael:

Thank you for forwarding the formal version of the University of Maine Faculty Senate's "*Motion in Support of the Program Creation and Reorganization Review Committee's Recommendations on Unit Reorganizations and Program Suspensions.*" This letter will constitute my response to the senate's thoughtful, deliberative assessment and recommendations as they relate to academic program adjustments.

During the past few weeks, I have carefully studied the PCRRC recommendations. I am impressed by the care that the senate committee has taken to study all the proposals put forward by university administration, to solicit additional information and viewpoints, and to summarize succinctly positions on each of these complicated subjects. This has been a difficult task very well done.

Although I cannot endorse all the PCRRC recommendations, I am pleased to agree with most of them. I concur with recommendations that the School of Social Work and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders move to the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture. I concur with the recommendations to approve the current plans to suspend the Bachelor of Arts degrees in Theatre, Forest Ecosystem Science, Wood Science and Technology, and Aquaculture.

Unfortunately, I cannot endorse the PCRRC recommendations with respect to the suspension proposals relative to German, Latin, and Women's Studies. The PCRRC has recommended, and the Senate has endorsed, a one -year extension to the date for a decision on whether or not to eliminate these degree programs. I believe that the decision I reached last spring at the conclusion of the university's inclusive, comprehensive review process, although painful, is the correct decision under our current circumstances.

The PCRRC has also recommended further consideration of the decision to suspend both the bachelor's and master's degrees in Public Administration. The senate endorsed this recommendation, but I can not. Although I have reviewed all the additional information gathered by the PCRRC, the driving force behind these difficult decisions is financial; we are simply unable to delay decisions with such significant fiscal impact.

The senate has also asked that we explore collaboration with other system universities in order to deliver a statewide program in public administration. I have encouraged Provost Hunter to participate in these multi-campus discussions, which have already begun and are being coordinated by system personnel.

I am happy to comply with the request to forward both the Faculty Senate motion and the PCRRC report to Chancellor Pattenaude. The chancellor and Vice Chancellor Breece are both copied on this letter and they will receive all the information that you sent me on December 29.

Thank you for your participation in a lengthy and complicated process, one that is unfortunate but necessary because of the difficult and unprecedented financial challenges we face as an institution.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert A. Kennedy  
President

Cc: Chancellor Pattenaude  
Vice Chancellor Breece  
Provost Hunter