

May 19, 2011

Allen L. Sessoms
University of the District of Columbia
David A. Clarke School of Law
4200 Connecticut Avenue NW
Building 39, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20008

Dear President Sessoms:

I am writing at the request of the members of the Interim Academic Senate (IAS), which has just completed three years of pretty impressive service to the University. Under separate cover I will provide a detailed report of the Senate's accomplishments.

In recent weeks, the Community College has submitted its draft Charter and By-laws to the IAS Charter and By-laws Committee. The draft includes no mechanism by which CCDC would communicate with the Flagship's new Faculty Senate, which will take office at the start of Academic year 2011-12. This raised dual concerns regarding the need for UDC's leadership to clarify the governance structure for each entity and the need to improve communication between the two entities in general.

For example, the Flagship approved thoughtful and progressive new general education standards - - for the Flagship. These standards do not apply to CCDC, yet we all agree that we want to ensure that students will experience a seamless transition from CCDC to the flagship. In order to do so, we must coordinate on General Education requirements. We also want to ensure that CCDC has input into the Flagship General Education requirements as they relate to CCDC offerings.

The IAS urges you to bring the academic leadership of the two entities together to develop the mechanisms for this critical kind of communication. We very much appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Shelley Broderick,
Chair, Interim Academic Senate

cc: IAS
Grame Baxter
Jonathan Gueverra
Jacqueline Jackson

June 9, 2011

Jonathan Gueverra
Chief Executive Officer
Community College
University of the District of Columbia
4200 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Jonathan:

The purpose of this communication is to clarify for you and other members of the Community College staff the process and procedures required for approval of the college's academic programs.

As you know, the Community College is currently an academic unit of the University. As such, like the colleges and schools, it is accredited under the University's Middle States accreditation. Its academic integrity, as a contributing part of the whole UDC educational enterprise, is the responsibility, ultimately, of myself and the UDC Board of Trustees. Therefore, it is necessary for the college to follow the collaborative processes and procedures approved by the Board to ensure that our academic offerings, university and system-wide, are of high quality, serve our students, encourage student persistence and success, reflect the best and most current thinking of the faculty, work smoothly with other programs and offerings of the University, and result in no adverse fiscal impact.

The levels of initiation and review established for the accomplishment of this purpose, in order, are the:

- academic departments (clusters in the case of the college);
- curriculum committees of the schools (the Academic Senate in the case of the college);
- relevant committees of the Faculty Senate;
- full Faculty Senate;
- provost/president;
- Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees; and
- Board of Trustees.

In the case of the Community College, we have tried to be maximally flexible and to encourage its evolution in a way that recognizes its distinctive role in higher education and workforce development in the District of Columbia. We

understand that, consistent with best practices for workforce, certificate, and associates degree programs, the college may have different staffing structures, programmatic approaches, support systems, pedagogical approaches, academic goals, policies, and procedures. All of these differences may be accommodated. No one objects. However, just as with all our schools and programs, proposals need to be justified and subject to questioning and debate. Also, it is essential that programs of the college prepare students to succeed at the next level—a bachelor's degree and beyond—at their own state university. It could be that our hands-off, flexible approach has confused your understanding of how the college must continue to collaborate with and relate to the University and its governance.

To confirm and memorialize your understanding of this process, and to address the immediate issues identified below, I am appointing a Task Force on Academic Collaboration and Governance to be chaired by Trustee Crider, designated Board of Trustees liaison to the Community College. She will be joined by Trustee Mary Thompson, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board, Graeme Baxter, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dean Shelley Broderick, President of the Interim Academic Senate. As the first meeting is scheduled for next Monday at 4:00, I am asking that you immediately appoint to the Task Force the two senior members of your staff responsible for academic program development and quality, Jacqueline Jackson and Melanie Anderson, and the elected head of your Academic Senate, Brenda Brown.

The first agenda items to be addressed will include:

- Confirm understanding of academic governance processes and procedures described above.
- Establish process by which the Community College will adopt and adapt the University's General Education requirements so that students can move seamlessly to baccalaureate programs with the requisite skills and knowledge.
- Resolve any issues regarding the Community College Senate's proposed charter and bylaws and Community College faculty representation on the University's Faculty Senate.
- Establish faculty working groups to develop effective articulations between appropriate two-year and four-year University programs, e.g., architecture, graphic design, nursing, etc.

I look forward to receiving confirmation of your appointments to the Task Force. The group's report and recommendations will be due to me no later than July 31.

Sincerely,

Allen L. Sessoms

cc: Elaine Crider, Trustee, UDC Board of Trustees
Mary Thompson, Trustee, UDC Board of Trustees
Graeme Baxter, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Jacqueline Jackson, Dean of Academic Affairs, Community College
Melanie Anderson, Dean for New Program Development and
Compliance, Community College
Shelley Broderick, Dean, David A. Clarke School of