

Memorandum

To: Jim Daly, Faculty Presiding Officer
Elise Lemire, Chair, Purchase 2010 Faculty Committee

From: Damian Fernandez, Provost

Date: October 1, 2008

Re: Purchase 2010: Rethinking Wide Open

This must be a transformative year in the history of Purchase College as factors converge that present challenges and opportunities for us. Internal concerns such as retention, graduation rates, and student engagement, together with external conditions such as declining state support and demographic shift, demand that we rethink key aspects of our institution. To secure our niche in the landscape of higher education we must engage in reforms that will underscore our unique mission and strengthen our position in the years to come. To deliver on the promise of Purchase, we must consider how our academic administrative structures facilitate or impede integration across disciplines, schools, and conservatories.

I am therefore launching a multidimensional program of academic rethinking called Purchase 2010: Rethinking Wide Open. I am inviting you to serve as co-chairs of the first phase of this process, the Faculty Facilitating Committee to assist in the process of BOS reform. The initiative should be an intellectually exciting one. It should generate engagement across campus as we strive to enhance collaboration and innovation by abandoning artificial barriers, silos, and hyper-fragmentation. The goal is to preserve what we do well as we begin to do other things better.

We expect that Purchase 2010 will enhance our intellectual community and our commitment to student-centered education. Students will benefit from a more interdisciplinary course array. Faculty will benefit from a larger critical mass of colleagues to share administrative responsibilities and to generate intellectual synergy.

Purchase 2010 Goals Statement: *The mission of Purchase College is to combine professional conservatory training in the visual and performing arts with distinguished programs in the liberal arts and sciences. The goal of the academic rethinking process is to determine an academic program configuration and corresponding administrative structures that will:*

- *Support our distinctive academic mission*
- *Better integrate the arts and liberal arts*
- *Respond to student demand*
- *Improve retention and graduation rates*
- *Maximize synergy and minimize redundancy and inefficiency*
- *Facilitate strategic investment in faculty positions*
- *Be sustainable financially*
- *Result in an energetically engaged intellectual community of faculty and students*

The Purchase 2010 Faculty Facilitating Committee is charged with producing a report to the President and Provost that conveys the sense of the faculty and presents an array of options for reconfiguring the current board of study structure at Purchase. The report is due April 3, 2009. The President and Provost will respond to the campus by May 1, 2009, with implementation scheduled for Fall 2010. The faculty committee will determine the appropriate activities, meeting schedule, and timeline for the academic year.

Thank you for joining us in this venture.

cc: Bradley Brookshire
Robin Lynch
Michelle Stewart