



August 17, 2009

MICHAEL D. AMIRIDIS
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND PROVOST

TO: Deans
Columbia Campus
School of Medicine
Regional Campuses

FROM: Michael Amiridis 
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

RE: Department Visits with Faculty and Students

As I stated in the Provost's Meeting, one of my top priorities is to meet with the faculty and students of each of the academic units on the Columbia Campus, the School of Medicine, and the Regional Campuses. My personal goal for each of these meetings is to acquire first-hand knowledge of their accomplishments as well as their plans for the future and the challenges and concerns facing them, and to familiarize myself with their facilities. I also hope to convey to them that the Office of the Provost is open to new ideas and new solutions during these difficult economic times. I'm looking forward to these visits as a great learning experience. I hope you will find the time to participate in them as well.

Our faculty and our students are the keys to the level of academic excellence we have been able to achieve to date, and are critical to our future as we strive to improve our standing among the leading national research universities. My experience as a faculty member, a chair, and a dean has convinced me that faculty must be empowered so that they can excel at their work. In addition, we must also identify ways to reward faculty who maintain high levels of productivity in their scholarship, research, and teaching, and outside the classroom as well. Both of these will be top priorities for my office. Recruiting and retaining high quality and diverse undergraduate, graduate, and professional students will also be very important priorities for my office. Excellent faculty and excellent students reinforce each other and spur each other on to higher achievements. I strongly believe that high caliber undergraduate majors and strong, nationally-competitive graduate and professional programs are essential to our success.

The agenda for these meetings will be tailored to fit the demographics of each department. A typical format is attached. Dr. Christine Curtis will be in contact with your office to coordinate the department meeting times and locations. In addition, she will be asking each department chair to provide information that I have requested: (1) a two-page vita for each faculty member; (2) information on peer departments, the department strengths, weaknesses, and accomplishments, top three goals and priorities, and to identify any infrastructure improvements that are needed; and (3) select data on faculty and students.

I am looking forward to meeting and conversing with the faculty and students in your college.

cc: Christine Curtis, Vice Provost for Faculty Development
Chris Plyler, Vice Provost for System Affairs and Executive Dean for Extended University
Helen Doeringhaus, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Attachment