October 15, 2013

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

When I stepped into my role as Vice President of Academic Affairs in March, one of the projects in development was the transition of the student evaluation system from paper and pencil to online. In the ensuing months, the project passed through all of the proper channels, and I am happy to report that the switch to online evaluations will occur this semester.

A committee led by Dr. Tom Jewell, and comprised mainly of faculty members, reviewed a number of possible online evaluation systems and finally decided upon SmartEvals. This online platform, which was developed in upstate New York, offers a great number of benefits including the ability to create customized questions, the option to collect mid-semester feedback, and the ability for students to complete the ratings survey using their mobile devices, to name a few. More information is available on the SmartEvals website. We are confident about the launch of SmartEvals for this semester but will continually be evaluating it so we can eventually use it to its full potential.

The implementation of SmartEvals represents a significant change for the College, and as such requires careful campus coordination and communication. For this phase of the process, I have asked Gerri Koch, as well as Stephen Valkenburg and Amarjit Kaur to lead the implementation effort. Dr. Koch has already convened a group of faculty members to decide upon the questions. The system will be piloted in small number of classes in a few weeks and then rolled out to entire college in time for students to use for their fall classes.

Additional announcements with further details will be forthcoming, but please feel free to contact Dr. Koch with any questions.

Sincerely,

William P. Mullaney, Ph.D.

Vice President of Academic Affairs