



Memorandum

To: Ronald M. Berkman, President
From: Geoffrey S. Mearns, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Date: March 16, 2011
Re: Academic Reorganization

G. Mearns

I submit this memorandum on behalf of the budget advisory task force as part of the task force's ongoing responsibility to provide recommendations as to how the University should prepare for the possible reduction in state support for higher education.

One specific aspect of the task force's original charge was to evaluate whether a reorganization of the University's existing college structure might result in both financial savings and an improved function of the academic enterprise. In response to this charge, which was echoed by some suggestions the task force received during consultations with the University community, the task force formed a sub-committee that evaluated a few possible scenarios. The work of this sub-committee was discussed and debated at several meetings of the task force.

The task force has concluded that it will not provide you with any specific recommendations concerning this important issue. While the members of the task force believe that some substantial academic reorganization may be beneficial, both financially and strategically, the task force has concluded that, given the current time constraints, the task force is not capable of conducting the necessary detailed analysis and consultation. Moreover, the members of the task force believe that it is not appropriately constituted to perform this significant responsibility.

Therefore, the task force recommends that you, in consultation with the leadership of University faculty, constitute a committee to evaluate the existing college structure and recommend whether a different organizational structure would be more financially efficient and strategically sound.