



Office of the Provost

January 22, 2008

TO: Members of the Technology-Based Learning and Academic Programs Task Force

FR: Gerald E. Lang, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Research

RE: Acknowledgement of the Task Force on Technology-Based Learning and Academic Programs Report

I want to formally acknowledge the receipt of your report and to thank you for your commitment to this important activity.

As the task force report makes clear, technology-based learning has moved from the periphery to the core of WVU's academic mission. The integration of instructional technologies in traditional face-to-face classrooms and the use of online tools and approaches have become central components of teaching and learning in the 21st century.

I appreciate the work of the task force in analyzing current status of technology-based learning and academic programs at WVU, in researching best practices, and in providing recommendations for change. Instructional and information technologies will become ever more critical to WVU's strategic planning as we look towards the 2015 plan. The task force report provides guidance for addressing issues related to the pedagogy, organization, and communication of technology-based learning.

The Implementation Team has discussed the task force report and recommendations. I have asked Dean O'Brien of the University Libraries to examine how our Libraries could accommodate a "library commons." She has shared with me a summary of best practices that she gleaned from the recent ALA meeting. We are reviewing what might be done at the Downtown Library for this fall semester. You will learn more as this activity comes to fruition. I also believe we must provide faculty and students with state-of-the-art classroom instructional technologies to enhance teaching and learning. I have asked Dr. Jessika Thomas to lead the ongoing initiative to improve technology in centrally-scheduled classrooms. As part of this initiative, critical faculty input will be sought through a newly formed Classroom Technology Advisory Board.

Again, thank you for your dedication to improving technology-based learning and academic programs at WVU.

cc: 2010 Plan Implementation Team
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