

## OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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Peter Lennie

*Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Dean*

*Faculty of Arts, Sciences, and Engineering*



March 5, 2013

To: AS&E Faculty and Staff

From: Peter Lennie, Dean of the Faculty  
Richard Feldman, Dean of the College

Re: Reports from Two Faculty Committees

We are writing to call your attention to the final reports of two committees that met over the past several months. The Education Technology Committee, chaired by Mark Bocko of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and the Experiential Learning Initiatives Committee, chaired by Ernie Nordeen of the Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences, were appointed last summer to address fundamental questions about the current state of undergraduate education. You may find the reports at the following website:

[www.rochester.edu/college/strategicplan](http://www.rochester.edu/college/strategicplan).

Concerns about costs, about the value of a liberal education, and about the merits of online alternatives have fueled widespread public discussion of higher education. The committees were formed to advance our thinking about our responses to these issues. More specifically, they were asked to provide recommendations on how we might best deploy technology, in all its modern forms, to strengthen teaching and to advise on developing distinctive opportunities for students to engage in research or undertake major projects, in ways that take maximal advantage of our faculty expertise and the residential experience the College provides.

The committees did exemplary work. Their reports provide a range of recommendations and suggestions, all of which merit careful consideration by the faculty. The recommendations include some that are relatively easy to implement and some that will require substantive changes in things we do. Some would require costly investments and some would not. Both reports are mindful of the demands already placed on our faculty and recommend that implementation of any changes be accompanied by adequate provision of support for faculty.

We encourage departments, programs and other groups to discuss the reports internally to determine ways in which the recommendations do, or do not, fit with their own plans. There is a link on the website that you can use to send comments on these reports to the deans.

The recommendations contained in these reports will be discussed in the coming months in a variety of venues, including the College Curriculum Committee and the AS&E Faculty Council.

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