



Northeastern University

Office of the Provost

To: Faculty, Staff and Students of the College of Criminal Justice

From: Stephen W. Director, Provost

Date: April 8, 2009

Re: Possible Restructuring of the College of Criminal Justice and the College of Arts and Sciences

As you are aware, during the past few months, an ad hoc committee known as the College Structure Committee has been soliciting views from members of the Northeastern community in order to prepare a report that evaluates the pros and cons of a possible restructuring of the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Criminal Justice. Our motivation for undertaking such an effort is to ensure that our academic programs remain strong and that we are structured in a way that provides the best possible support for the work of our faculty and pursuits of our students.

In fact, as a university whose mission is dependent on objective inquiry, we have a responsibility to question, analyze and debate if and how we can improve everything we do and ensure that we are responsive to the changes in the world around us.

The Committee has been working hard to ensure that all views and issues can be heard and opinions, both pro and con, taken into consideration as we evaluate a possible reorganization. The Committee has not been charged with making a specific recommendation and therefore is not in a position to argue for or against a particular outcome nor is it prepared to engage in a debate about the various alternatives. Thus far, many students, faculty, alumni and staff have provided valuable feedback at committee meetings, open forums and by email. There are some who have suggested that this process is not a genuine search for ideas and information. This view is both wrong and potentially has the effect of stifling debate on this important issue. It is also inconsistent with the values of an academic community dedicated to seeking knowledge.

During the coming weeks, members of the committee will continue their effort in soliciting information about the pros and cons of restructuring these colleges. I hope that those of you who are interested in this issue will find a way to provide the Committee with constructive and

thoughtful input. If you would like to contribute to this discussion please feel free to email your thoughts to the Committee at collegestructure@neu.edu .

Finally, I want to reiterate once again that if a decision is made to merge the College of Criminal Justice into the College of Arts and Sciences or a successor college, the academic integrity of all degree programs and student access to high quality co-op and research opportunities will remain. Further, Criminal Justice will maintain its high level of visibility within the University and the CJ faculty, programs and students will continue to be an integral part of Northeastern University and source of pride.