



February 21, 2020

To the William Paterson community:

I write to inform you that I accept Provost Josh Powers' recommendations for academic reorganization as detailed in his February 11 memorandum to me. I want to thank all the deans, chairs, and faculty who contributed to these recommendations for their good work. The process of collaboration that underpins these recommendations was a wonderful demonstration of how well shared governance at William Paterson can work to strengthen the University for the ultimate benefit of our students.

From my direct experience at other institutions, I know that this kind of reorganization can be fraught with adversity. So, I am especially pleased that all involved came to the work in good faith with the shared goal of doing what's best for the University as a whole. I am confident that this undertaking has strengthened relationships among the participants in a way that will serve all of our departments, colleges, and the entire University well for a long time to come.

I have talked a lot about change and how difficult it can be, most recently in my State of the University address, earlier this month. The work of all involved shows that the William Paterson community is prepared for the accelerating pace of change that will continue to confront higher education.

I see this reorganization as an evolving process, an approach that higher education must take in more areas to meet the changing needs of our students and the changing environment in which we operate. I encourage all of us to take advantage of the momentum created by the reorganization process to continue to engage in conversations that could lead to additional creative ways in which we can respond to the academic needs of our students as we prepare them for success in their future careers and as lifelong learners.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Helldobler, PhD
President