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April 21, 2017: Weekly Message from Interim President Curtis McCray

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Dear Campus Community,

You are surely getting tired of my negativity; I know I am. One can only go so long being down on life, finding dysfunction in every aspect of one's existence. Melancholia is not pleasant; is very destructive if allowed to go on and on.

Well, why have I been so negative? Let me explain. When I was on campus in January, one of the complaints I heard most often had to do with the lack of accurate information, a sense that another administration had sugarcoated our problems and that we had been misled. Accordingly, I have determined to be as complete as possible in my descriptions of our financial mess; and this has required me to be very gloomy in my forecasts and in my efforts to communicate accurately.

Now, there's another side to all of this and it has to do with the university itself. When I spoke to candidates Schrader and Ford, I was careful to describe the assets and the liabilities of the university. Neither candidate dropped out of contention for the presidency after learning of our challenges. Indeed, they seemed even more determined. Had I been younger, I told them, this is precisely the institution where I would like to be the president: the potential is great if well managed; our students need us; the area needs us; the academic disciplines need us; we have a dedicated staff; we have a beautiful campus.

Yes, we have problems; but they are ultimately resolvable. Join me in this dance, for I know a brighter future lies ahead.

Thank you for reading these weekly letters. Please note that there will not be a campus letter next Friday, but I expect to provide a letter the following week.

Curtis L. McCray
Interim President

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