

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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June 29, 2005

To: Bert E. Stromberg, Chair, Council of Research Associate Deans

From: Robert H. Bruininks, President *Bob*

Subject: Interdisciplinary Research Resolution

I am writing to thank you for your May 11, 2005, letter in support of fostering interdisciplinary research at the University of Minnesota (University).

The University is able to leverage its unique breadth as well as the individual strengths of its colleges and departments through high quality interdisciplinary work. In fact, I believe that interdisciplinarity is key to the academy's future as fields of study intersect and diverge over time. I too am concerned about the link between interdisciplinary research and teaching and the University's budget model, and agree that our financial systems must be as transparent and flexible as possible in order to most effectively encourage and support intercollegiate work. Consequently, I am sharing your letter with the senior vice presidents and our vice president and chief financial officer for their information as we move forward to advance all strategic initiatives, particularly those that are interdisciplinary in nature.

Thanks to you and the other members of the Council of Research Associate Deans for taking the time to share your thoughts with me. Keep up the good work!

RHB:ks

cc: Frank Cerra, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences
Robert Jones, Senior Vice President for System Administration
E. Thomas Sullivan, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Richard Pfitzenreuter, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Timothy Mulcahy, Vice President for Research
Al Sullivan, Executive Associate Vice President for Planning and Academic Affairs
Jeanie Taylor, Associate to the Vice President and Chief of Staff

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