



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Office of the Executive Vice President
and Provost

November 24, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles A. Johnson, Dean

SUBJECT: Journalism Recommendation

I have reviewed your recommendation that Texas A&M University initiate a new approach to journalism education. The work of the two faculty committees on issues presented by this initiative has been thorough and quite helpful. I am pleased the College has developed a plan assuring students currently in journalism programs that they will continue to receive quality instruction leading to a timely graduation. Moreover, I am also supportive of the recommendation that we embark on the development of a minor or certificate program in journalism, create an advisory committee and a journalist-in-residence program, strengthen internship opportunities and develop a proposal for an interdisciplinary major in journalism. All of this action strikes me as forward thinking.

University guidelines call for me to approve in principle your recommendation that we close the Department of Journalism and its associated degree programs. Based on the work of the Committee to Effect Change in Journalism and the Committee to Recommend New Initiatives in Journalism Education, and the plan you propose in your November 24, 2003, memorandum, I approve in principle your recommendation. University guidelines ask that the Faculty Senate make a recommendation regarding the closure of departments and academic programs. Accordingly, I ask that you present your recommendation to the Faculty Senate for its recommendation. Additionally, I ask that you take the actions necessary to begin implementation of your plan. I recognize that these initiatives will require extensive faculty consultation.

David B. Prior
Executive Vice President
and Provost

Office of the Dean
College of Liberal Arts

DBP:njm

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