


TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

College of Liberal Arts
Office of the Dean

August 16, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: College of Liberal Arts Vision 2020 Advisory Committee –
Margaret J. M. Ezell, John Paul Abbott Professor of Liberal Arts (Chair)
Isabel Ayala, Graduate Student, Department of Sociology
Meredith L. Geese, Liberal Arts Undergraduate Student – History
Charles H. Gregory '64
Robert W. Harvey '77
Kenneth J. Meier, Charles H. Gregory Chair in Liberal Arts
Michele A. Mobley '86
Larry Oliver, Associate Dean (*Ex Officio*)
Linda L. Putnam, George T. and Gladys H. Abell Professor of Communication
Rogelio Saenz, Professor of Sociology
Linda J. Shaw, Assistant Director for Operations, Public Policy Research Institute
Paul K. Stafford '90

FROM: Charles A. Johnson, Dean 

RE: Appointment and Charge

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the College of Liberal Arts Vision 2020 Advisory Committee. It has been nearly 10 years since Texas A&M University launched a serious self study that resulted in *Vision 2020* – a document that has guided the University's planning, its capital campaign, and its growth since its release in 1999. Many of the recommendations in *Vision 2020* directly involved the College of Liberal Arts because they related to undergraduate education, graduate education, diversity, internationalization, and the disciplines associated with the social sciences, humanities, and arts at Texas A&M.

Since release of *Vision 2020*, the University has invested significant resources in the College of Liberal Arts, and the quality of programs in the College has clearly improved. The number of faculty has increased and the number of students served by the College has increased at all levels. The College is now the largest academic collegiate unit in the University by several measures. Development support raised through the *One Spirit One Vision* capital campaign now exceeds \$30 million.

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The University recently undertook an assessment of progress toward goals set in *Vision 2020*. This assessment led to a report that highlighted successes, areas where greater efforts are needed, some goals that might be reconsidered or reframed, and evaluations about resource implications for Texas A&M University as it pursues *Vision 2020* goals.

I am calling for a similar assessment that focuses on the College of Liberal Arts and *Vision 2020*. Given the centrality of the College to many programs addressed in *Vision 2020*, this assessment is also critically important to the University.

I have attached a general charge to this Committee. It is intentionally flexible. We will provide staff support and information for the Committee's deliberations. The College will also arrange for consultations with a group of American Association of Universities (AAU) deans to inform, advise, and react to the Committee's work. I would appreciate receiving periodic updates on the Committee's progress and a final draft report by May 1, 2007.

cc: David B. Prior, Executive Vice President and Provost
Liberal Arts Executive Council

College of Liberal Arts Vision 2020 Advisory Committee

The College of Liberal Arts *Vision 2020* Advisory Committee serves in an advisory role to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. It provides an informed perspective on the College's progress toward *Vision 2020* goals for the College and for Texas A&M University as they relate to the College of Liberal Arts.

The initial charge for the Committee is:

- Highlight significant accomplishments and progress by the College toward *Vision 2020* goals
- Determine what steps are necessary to sustain and accelerate movement toward these goals
- Identify areas where progress toward *Vision 2020* goals is lagging
- Suggest adjustments to approaches taken by the College to achieve *Vision 2020* goals

The Committee's review should be intellectually rigorous and have a College-level focus. We will provide the best available data to the Committee and staff support to organize meetings, develop data and analyses, and prepare the final report.

At an early stage in the process, the College will arrange a visit by a team of American Association of Universities (AAU) deans or former deans to discuss the Committee's mission and approach. A second visit by these deans will occur as the Committee prepares its final report.

Tentative Calendar

September 2006	Organization of the Committee, initial meetings, development of questions and data needs; organization of meetings with College constituents
November 2006	Meeting with AAU deans
March 2007	Meeting with AAU deans and review of final draft report
May 2007	Final report