Dear Members of the University Community,

I am pleased to report that the members of the Faculty Structure Task Force have been appointed and work on this important initiative is underway. Members are as follows:

David Boal (Physics), Jim Cavers (Engineering Science), Jane Friesen (Economics), Derrick Harder (Student Society), Michel Joffres (Health Sciences), Jack Martin (Education), Ian McCarthy (Business Administration), Sue Roppel (Academic Relations), Lisa Shapiro (Philosophy), Michael St. Denis (Graduate Student Representative), John Waterhouse (Vice President, Academic), and Alison Watt (University Secretariat)

The membership was selected to bring a diverse perspective to the issue of Faculty Structure; it was not intended to mirror the current faculty alignment at SFU although broad academic program representation may lead to a general approximation of the current structure.

As you may recall from the initial announcement of this initiative, the mandate of the Task Force is to create a Discussion Document for the University Community addressing the following question:

Is Simon Fraser University's current academic structure one that best reflects our qualities and strengths and one that will enable us to most effectively and visibly advance our strategic goals?

The Task Force would like to clarify that it is not engaged in the specification of a new departmental and/or faculty configuration for Simon Fraser University. Rather it is mandated to develop a discussion document that will identify issues surrounding academic organizational structure, the fit between our current structure and our strategic goals, and the principles by which a realignment exercise should be governed if, through the process of collegial decision making, it is determined to be the appropriate next step in the University’s future.

As one would expect, the mandate of the Faculty Structure Task Force is stage one in the process for potential realignment. Should the ultimate recommendation of this Task Force be to proceed with realignment and, if Senate and the Board concur, then it will be necessary to define stage two which would
tackle directly unit alignment. This next phase would be expected to commence in September 2006 with implementation commencing in Fall 2007.

The Task Force invites all students, staff, faculty and alumni to engage with us in considering the University’s academic structure. An open forum will be held on **Monday, February 27, 2006 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm in Halpern Room 126**. We hope that you will join us in exploring the advantages and challenges of the current Faculty structure.

All members of the Faculty Structure Task Force also welcome the opportunity to discuss our ideas and progress with members of the community. We invite you to contact any of us. We will be developing an extensive outreach and consultation process in conjunction with the release of the Discussion Document which is expected to be made available to the University Community at the end of April 2006.

The Task Force would like to take this opportunity to draw to your attention to the website of the Faculty Structure Task Force which will be the future forum for community engagement around the discussion document. The website currently has the full Terms of Reference, a list of Task Force Members and community announcements. The site can be found at:

http://www.sfu.ca/vpacademic/Committees_TaskForces/Ad_Hoc_Committees/Faculty_Structure_Task_Force/index.html

We look forward to working with the entire University Community on this important initiative and look forward to seeing you at the open forum on February 27th.