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March 24, 2011

To: The UMass Amherst Community

I am very pleased to announce the reappointments of Julie Hayes as Interim Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts and Bob Feldman as Interim Dean of the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences, both effective through June 30, 2012. I greatly appreciate their service, and I look forward to continuing to work with them in the upcoming academic year.

I also greatly appreciate the consultation provided by the Heads and Chairs and the College Personnel Committees of both colleges and the work of the *ad hoc* Search Committee for the CSBS Interim Dean chaired by Jarice Hanson, all of which supported the procedures for reappointment of interim deans as set out in Senate Document Number 90-029C. The time and thoughtful consideration given to these procedures is a great service to the respective colleges and to the campus.

At the February 24, 2011, meeting of the Faculty Senate, when I withdrew the proposal for a new College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences (CHASS) that I had submitted at the beginning of the semester, my announcement included the following: "It became clear to me that in order to engage in a reasonable discussion about CHASS, there needed to be time for the atmosphere to clear. I broached with the combined College Personnel Committees and with the combined heads and chairs what I described as Plan B: continuing the existing colleges through 2011-2012, and charging the two interim deans with addressing some of the implementation concerns identified by the joint task force, *e.g.*, combining efforts in the area of research support, while my administrative colleagues and I addressed others, *e.g.*, short- and long-term solutions to housing a CHASS dean's office."

In order to fully implement "Plan B", I am appointing Distinguished Professor John McCarthy, currently Head of the Department of Linguistics, as Special Assistant to the Provost with the charge of leading the effort to address the issues raised for the implementation of CHASS. The two interim deans and Special Assistant McCarthy are charged with working together to begin the coalescence of services and procedures of the two colleges, laying the groundwork for a new CHASS proposal that I anticipate submitting during 2011-2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Staros".

James V. Staros

Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs