

From: Das, Tapas (Provost Office)

Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2008 5:09 PM

To: Gibbons, Michael; Bird, Elizabeth; Branch, Laurence; Fogel, Sondra; Rao, Abdul; Lee, Barton; Weller, Tom; Hine, Albert; Jones, Bruce; Padmanabhan, Balaji; Batsche, Catherine (FMHI); Kirstein, Cheryl

Cc: Tobin, Graham (Academic Affairs); Forkel, Sherry (Provost Office)

Subject: Invitation to serve on the Steering Committee for the Task Force on Integrated Interdisciplinary Inquiry (III)

Dear Colleagues,

For some time you have been hearing from the Provost about the **Task Force on Integrated Interdisciplinary Inquiry** (III). Dr. Graham Tobin (Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs) and I have been charged with facilitating this important cross-campus task. As you know well, creating an environment conducive to interdisciplinary inquiry in research, teaching, and community engagement is critical to sustaining USF's growth. You may also know that most of the top ranking universities across the globe are working to improve their interdisciplinary inquiry capabilities.

Dr. Tobin and I are delighted that a very strong group of scholars like you have been nominated for membership in the steering committee based on experience in conducting interdisciplinary inquiry, administrative and shared governance experience, senior rank, cross campus representation, and efficiency of operation. The committee would develop a charge and would also establish the task based committees necessary to accomplish the charge and make necessary recommendations to the Provost.

Please accept our sincere invitation to serve in the Steering Committee for III. Attached with this email are: 1) a "DRAFT" charge for your consideration, and 2) a pdf copy of a book by the National Academy of Sciences on "Facilitating Interdisciplinary Research." (Chapter 5 of the book offers interesting reading and a good starting point.)

Sherry Forkel will contact you for arranging our first meeting in the week of September 29, 2008. We look forward to working with you in getting this critical task accomplished.

Sincerely,

Tapas and Graham

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