MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 7, 2007

TO: Don Birx, Vice President for Research
Wynne Chin, Professor of Decision and Information Sciences
Arnold Eskin, Professor of Biology and Biochemistry
Sarah Fishman, Professor of History and Associate Dean, CLASS
William Fitzgibbon, Dean of Technology
Jacquie Hawkins, Associate Professor and Department Chair, Educational Psychology
Joe Kotarba, President, Faculty Senate, Professor of Sociology
Stuart Long, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Associate Dean, Honors College
Jim McShan, Associate Vice President for Finance
Jeff Morgan, Professor and Department Chair, Mathematics
Hanadi Rifai, Associate Professor, Environmental Engineering
Nestor Rodriguez, Professor of Sociology
David Rosen, President, Student Government Association
Donna Stokes, Associate Professor of Physics

FROM: Donald J. Foss

RE: QEP Undergraduate Research Planning Committee

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the University of Houston’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Undergraduate Research Planning Committee. The QEP is a major component of the SACS reaffirmation process in which the university is currently engaged. According to SACS, the QEP describes a focused course of action that addresses a topic related to enhancing student learning. For the University of Houston, that topic will be undergraduate research.

The process of selecting undergraduate research as the QEP topic took place over the course of the fall 2006 semester and involved a broad cross section of the university community. Beginning last September, a QEP Topic Selection Committee identified numerous potential topics, discussed them with faculty, staff and students, and ultimately recommended to the SACS Leadership Team three topics: undergraduate research, writing in the disciplines, and student mentoring. The Leadership Team, which includes the UH President, Provost, CFO, and Faculty Senate President, was in agreement that all three topics were of great importance to the university and selected undergraduate research with the understanding that writing and mentoring components should be incorporated into the plan if possible.
Attached you will find information from SACS explaining the QEP in full. The Quality Enhancement Plan is one of the most important long-term projects the University of Houston will pursue in the coming years. The program we develop must align with the strategic direction of the university and will require a long-term investment of resources. It will also be evaluated by SACS at the end of five years. I have asked you to serve on this committee because you occupy positions of leadership in the university community, have a demonstrated commitment to improving the quality of student learning on campus, and have the requisite expertise to design a program that will greatly enhance the quality of undergraduate education at UH. I have every confidence that you will make this process successful.

Attachment