



May 10, 2010

To members of the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences Community:

“Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another.”

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The events of the past week surrounding the decision to withdraw an offer for the position of Dean of the Klingler College of Arts and Sciences have raised, for many in our community, serious questions. These questions range from issues with process to more fundamental concerns about our institutional commitment to diversity, inclusion, and academic freedom. There will need to be serious discussion in the days, months, and even years ahead about these issues – how to heal the hurt that this has caused, and how to enable the College to move forward, together, with shared purpose and commitment to each other as valued members of the community. Much work will be needed but, at this time, may we start with a strong statement of our guiding values and commitment to work together.

We affirm our support of the University’s Statement on Human Dignity and Diversity.
(<http://www.marquette.edu/about/diversity.shtml>)

We affirm that **true academic freedom is essential to our work**. Faculty and students must be free to engage in respectful, informed academic discussion on difficult topics in and out of the classroom. Scholarship must be evaluated on its intellectual merits and contribution to the field. Our mission of the search for truth and the discovery and sharing of knowledge demands no less.

We are **committed to living out the core of Marquette University’s mission**, based on the foundations of Excellence, Faith, Leadership, and Service, in ways that will bring us together for higher purpose.

May we all find a way to peace and to hope for a better future.

Jeanne M. Hossenlopp
Interim Dean
Klingler College of Arts and Sciences

Stephanie Russell
Vice President
Mission and Ministry