



To: NDNU Students
From: Judith Maxwell Greig, President
Date: August 26, 2016

Dear NDNU Students,

Welcome back to the new academic year! Whether you were attending classes, working, or spending time with friends and family, I hope your summer was a good one. Fall classes begin on Monday, and the year ahead promises much excitement for our community. I wanted to provide an update on some of the plans.

You may be aware that this past spring, the NDNU community participated in a university-wide self-assessment process to help identify priorities for future growth and to align the university with external market demands. It is a critical time in the higher education sector, and I believe that universities that take time to undergo this self-assessment will best position themselves to thrive in a changing landscape.

The outcomes of the self-assessment process will enable NDNU to focus on our strengths and to benefit from synergies that already exist. We are moving forward in ways that ensure we can continue to offer programs that are in high demand while remaining true to the heritage given to us by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. We also must retain our commitment to making college as affordable as possible for our students, while managing the budget pressures that make the work of small, not-for-profit institutions that much more complex. The natural outcome of such a process is that some academic and administrative programs will be phased out. These decisions are hard but inevitable. However, this process will also allow NDNU to add additional programs that our students tell us they need and want. We will also use this work to strengthen our core services.

Over the course of the next year you will notice the following changes:

- We are consolidating services to create a comprehensive Student Success Center, incorporating what had previously been known as the Academic Success Center, Math Lab, Writing Center, and the Office of Retention. This Center will also assist with advising for our undergraduate students.
- We have realigned some of our academic programs to deliver on NDNU's Vision Statement that promises an "innovative synthesis of liberal arts learning, professionally-oriented learning, and core values."
 - The College of Arts & Sciences will become our undergraduate liberal arts college.
 - Graduate programs in Art Therapy Psychology and Clinical Psychology have moved to what is now known as the School of Education and Psychology.

- The Computer & Information Science program has moved to the School of Business & Management to align with the specific demands of our region.
- We will be adding men's and women's track & field teams to build upon student demand for athletic programs. The inaugural season is planned for 2017-18.
- We will continue to research and recommend new program areas that reflect student demand. We are investigating additional new programs to phase in over the next few years as well as courses offered in hybrid or online formats. We will keep you informed and look for student feedback along the way.
- We cannot invest in new areas without reallocating resources appropriately. As a result of our self-assessment, the programs listed below will be phased out. Be assured that each current or newly admitted student in these programs will soon be provided with a concrete plan to complete their degree in a timely manner. To be clear, we intend to fully support our students through those plans. No new students will be admitted to these programs after September 1, 2016.
 - BA Philosophy
 - BA Theatre Arts
 - Minors in Dance, French, Theatre Arts
 - Some concentrations (Business, Education)
 - MA English
 - MFA Music
 - MS Systems Management
 - Certificate in Clinical Gerontology

Also 2016-17 is the last year that NDNU will sponsor a Women's Tennis team.

Though the field of higher education is under pressure, NDNU enjoys a rich heritage of responding to changing needs of society and students. We will continue this heritage by ensuring the success of NDNU for the future. You, our students, will always be the focus of our work.

You have my best wishes for a successful academic year. We are honored to have you as part of our community.

Judith Maxwell Greig, Ph.D.
President