

August 29, 2008

Ms. Jean Avnet Morse, Executive Director
Commission on Higher Education
Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2680

Dear Ms. Morse:

We have received and reviewed the external reviewers' report prepared by Dr. Paula Hooper Mayhew and Dr. Leslie Miller-Bernal on the Periodic Review Report submitted by Juniata College on July 1, 2008. We have also received the Fiscal Analysis prepared by Mr. Frank Barletta. We are grateful for the work of the reviewers and we accept both the report and the Fiscal Analysis.

We identified a number of specific issues in our Periodic Review Report. The reviewers made specific suggestions on several of these issues. We concur with their suggestions. First, we will continue to work on improving student writing and will certainly have a serious discussion in the faculty on the suggestion to separate writing objectives from "content" objectives in our writing intensive (CW) courses. Second, the faculty and administration will address the question of class size. Third, the faculty and the administration will work together to define and implement the "distinctive experiential learning opportunity" set out in the current strategic plan. Fourth, the second and third objectives will give us ample opportunity to do a better job of "...creating a positive consensus when faculty committees report to the faculty as a whole...." This task will be a specific objective of the Provost. Fifth, the faculty and the registrar will review and regularize policy and procedure with respect to internships, addressing both student requirements and faculty workload issues. Sixth, the Dean of International Programs will continue to lead the effort to find the optimal balance between encouraging the growth of study abroad opportunities and managing the financial dimension of study abroad. Finally, we will intensify our efforts to further diversify our faculty.

Again, on behalf of Juniata College I want to thank the reviewers. In preparing the Periodic Review Report, we took the opportunity to address both our strengths and weaknesses. We believe we do institutional assessment well and the PRR gave us the opportunity to encourage more departmental and course-specific assessment. The real benefit of the review process is in the work that we do together to identify ways in which we can improve.

Sincerely,

James J. Lakso, Ph. D.
Provost and Executive Vice President