

## MEMORANDUM

To: FIU Community

From: Douglas Wartzok, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

Date: June 11, 2009

Re: School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

Last year we were successful in convincing Dean Joseph West to postpone his resignation and continue for an additional year as dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Shortly after we secured his willingness to add to his responsibilities the position of Vice Provost for the Biscayne Bay Campus. I am immensely grateful for his willingness to simultaneously fill these two major leadership positions. However after ten years as dean, a return to the faculty is too tempting to further postpone. Accordingly, he has indicated that he will step down from both positions on 1 July 2009 and take his long delayed sabbatical during the 2009-10 year after which he will continue as Professor in the School of Hospitality Management. Associate Dean Joan Remington has agreed to serve as Interim Dean and Stephen Moll, Associate Professor and Faculty Chair in Hospitality Management, has agreed to serve as Interim Vice Provost for Biscayne Bay Campus.

Dean West's accomplishments are myriad. The South Beach Wine and Food Festival is the best in the country and sets the FIU program apart from all competitors. Its revenues have grown from \$35,000 to over \$2,900,000 under Dean West's leadership. The physical plant at Biscayne Bay has been improved through Dean West's fund raising efforts. External contributors have provided funds for refurbishing and equipping several classrooms including a \$600,000 contribution from the Marriott Corporation for a distance learning center. Dean West has been in the forefront in recognizing the changing landscape in higher education and the necessity to partner with the corporate sector in order to provide a quality of education impossible with only state resources. The School's Industry Advisory Board provides unquestioned dedication and essential support. Hospitality Management has taken over the management of the Kovens Center. In total Dean West has been responsible for bringing in more than \$22 million to the University through his initiatives.

Another accomplishment that secures the School's continued ranking among the best hospitality management schools in the world is the establishment of our campus in Tianjin China. Almost 500 students are enrolled in the FIU program in Tianjin. The government of Tianjin built a \$50 million campus to house the FIU program. This program has enhanced FIU exchange programs with China. Dean West's pioneering efforts in China have set the stage for further expansion of FIU programs in China. The Bachelor's of Public Administration and the Bachelor's of Business Administration are planned to begin upper division instruction there in Fall 2011.

In his one year tenure as Vice Provost at Biscayne Bay, he has improved campus appearance and worked with all student services to improve the customer service provided. Under his leadership, almost all BBC service employees have completed intensive training in customer service. He has been a strong advocate of enhanced services and resources for the campus and has kept the needs of the campus in the forefront during difficult times of budget reductions.

I want to thank Joe West for his dedicated leadership not only in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and on the Biscayne Bay Campus but also in the University, the community, and the industry. We tried during 2007-08 to identify a successor capable of continuing Dean West's strong legacy. We were unsuccessful at that time. We now have to search with redoubled efforts.