



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
151 Chemical Engineering
421 Washington Avenue S.E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
(612) 373-2300

December 11, 1979

Prof. R. L. Purple
Chairman
Faculty Consultative Committee
5-255 Millard Hall

Dear Rick,

Because the primary mission of the University is academic the SCC should, I think, keep that mission central in its considerations with the President. The SCC on the other hand is preoccupied with the University administration, such as capital requests, regential and legislative relations, procedural issues, steering senate processes, responding to all anticipated current efforts, etc. Moreover SCC needs are not suited to the genuine discussions and constructive argument needed to stimulate serious, innovative thought about ever-better accomplishing that mission. When the items for SCC on 29 November got placed on the SCC docket for that day, they drew the predictably unsatisfying responses.

For the two-hour FCC meeting with the President on 20 December I would like to ask that he be invited to speak in more depth about items D, E, and F from 29 November. I would like the group to focus with him on:

- The criteria by which he has formed his impressions of the academic state, programmatic directions, and fiscal needs of each unit.
- Examples of units and programs (i) with established high levels of excellence considered worth protecting, (ii) where effectiveness is improving from within, and is considered worth aiding, (iii) where effectiveness is being strengthened from without, (iv) where decline has set in despite countermeasures, (v) where deterioration is being allowed deliberately.
- Synopsis of his preliminary formulation of goals, objectives, and priorities, especially in relation to shifting enrollments and to present and anticipated opportunities for achieving excellence.

Sincerely,

L. E. Scriven
Professor

LES:lms