Dear Campus Community,

We just celebrated the outstanding contributions of our faculty and staff with the annual Recognition Ceremony. Congratulations to all of our award winners who are so richly deserving of the acknowledgement of their contributions to our campus, community, students, and professional societies! A special acknowledgement as well to all of those who were nominated and thank you to those who took the time to nominate their colleagues!

Max H. Levine Award – Amanda Zbacnik  
Community Engagement Award – Richard Stewart  
Excellence in Scholarship/Creativity Award – Joel Sipress  
High Impact Practices Excellence Award – Nate LaCousiere  
Inclusiveness Award – Trish Hegstrom-Olson  
Community Partner Award – Chief Nick Alexander  
Outstanding Mentor Award - Rubana Mahjabeen, Joe Mooney  
Rising Star Award – Alison Wielgus  
Student’s Choice for Outstanding Teaching in an Online Program – Heather Kahler  
Student’s Choice for Outstanding Teaching in an On campus Program – Anne Robertson  
The Helping Hand Award – Andy Blackwell  
The Spirit of Superior Award – Salisa Hochstetler, Jeremy Nere

There are also many exciting student showcases remaining and I encourage you to pop into these to show support for our students and faculty and to see what exciting work has taken place. It truly is one of the best times of the year and one that is energizing as you see what our students are capable of doing.

I want to clarify something that was in President Cross’ statement yesterday, that Chancellor’s and Provosts had been consulted about program prioritization. President Cross alluded only vaguely in calls with the chancellors about the need to look carefully at the program array and similarly that was the tenor of the meetings with provosts. Until this morning, Maria and I were unaware there would be a Regent proposal, and unaware of any defined outcomes or timelines for this initiative, or of the other two initiatives. I understand that the surprise of this message may have resulted in fear and concern. We will be strongly advocating for our campus. We want to ensure that people understand the work that has transpired, and most importantly, the lessons learned. Please know
that we were in contact with our governance group chairs earlier today to answer any questions and to be as transparent and communicative as possible what happened and will continue to keep you and them in the loop as events transpire.

Be well and safe.

Renée