



University of Colorado
Boulder

April 4, 2011

President Bruce Benson
University of Colorado
1800 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Bruce:

Thank you for your letter of April 1, 2011 supporting my recommendation that the School of Journalism and Mass Communication be discontinued while insuring that CU-Boulder continues to provide journalism education to our students through a Journalism Plus program with two undergraduate options. The first option for students will be a double major in journalism and another academic discipline, such as English, history, political science or environmental studies. Students in this track will be able to complete the double major in 120 hours. The second track will be a major in an academic discipline and a minor in journalism. It is our intent to pursue accreditation in both of these tracks so that when the accreditation team visits the campus in two years, the double major and the major with a minor in journalism education will be accredited.

Current undergraduate students and those admitted for Fall 2011 will be able to complete the requirements for the existing Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in journalism and mass communication and graduate in the four-year time period. Students admitted for Fall 2012 will be part of the new Journalism Plus program and will either receive a Bachelor's Degree with a double major in journalism and an academic discipline, or a major in an academic discipline with a minor in journalism. Advisors will work with students to ensure that they are able to move through the old program and the new program in a timely fashion. All catalogue and admissions materials will be updated to inform students of the new Journalism Plus program beginning Fall Semester, 2012.

If the Board of Regents decides to discontinue the School of journalism and Mass Communication, the Dean of the Graduate School will appoint a Chair for the department effective July 1, 2011. The chair, working with faculty, members of professional associations, and media leaders, will begin to develop the journalism education curriculum that will take effect Fall Semester, 2012. The Dean of the Graduate School in consultation with the Chair will establish an Advisory Board for the department.


The Dean of the Graduate School will also work with the chair and faculty to strengthen the Master's Program with the intent of receiving accreditation in two years when the Accreditation Team visits the campus. In addition, the Dean will work with the chair and faculty on a model that produces revenue for the program similar to other professional master's programs, such as the Interdisciplinary Telecommunications Program through Continuing Education and the MBA program through the Leeds School of Business.

By Fall Semester 2012, I am confident that the Journalism Plus program and the re-structured MA program will be far better programs academically and professionally than what we have at the present time. I believe that the Journalism Plus program will be a model for other research universities across the country that want to emphasize a strong academic discipline with journalism education for future

journalists. CU Boulder is committed to establishing a long-term home for journalism education in either one of the existing schools/colleges or in a new academic unit.

Thank you, once again, for supporting the Boulder campus as we move forward to offer our students a rigorous academic program in journalism education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip P. DiStefano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Philip P. DiStefano
Chancellor