Dear Faculty Colleagues:

Teaching, like research, is of paramount importance at the University of Connecticut. Thus, we must know and implement cutting-edge innovations and best practices as we do in research.

In order to promote a university culture that values excellence in teaching, I have appointed a Task Force on Teaching, Learning, and Assessment. This task force is charged with recommending ways to 1) improve the quality of teaching and learning at the undergraduate and graduate levels; 2) offer opportunities for professional development; 3) develop assessment tools to inform and improve classroom instruction; 4) ensure that quality of teaching will be a strong consideration, along with research, in reappointment, promotion, tenure, and merit, as mandated in the by-laws.

Since student evaluation forms were last revised in 1989, the task force is considering their revision, as well as other means of evaluating teaching, such as portfolios or observations. The task force will also address the concerns of different kinds of teachers by discipline, rank, or apprentice status such as TAs. In addition, the task force will consider the relationship of the evaluation of teaching to learning outcomes and assessment.

The task force has begun its work, and I will expect their recommendations by February 1, 2007. Please send any thoughts and suggestions that you have to the committee members, listed below with their email addresses. Thank you for helping them with this important charge.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Nicholls

Provost

Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Task Force

Veronica Makowsky
Tom DeFranco
Robert Fisher
Diane Lillo-Martin
David Miller
Jeff Ogbar
David Ouimette
Catherine Ross
Hariharan Swaminathan
Eric Soulsby
Sally Reis Renzulli
Debra Kendall