Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to send you the Faculty of Arts & Science Academic Plan 2010-2015 (also posted at www.artsci.utoronto.ca) which describes our vision for a reinvigorated Faculty and the road map to get us there.

As you are probably aware, this plan has been in the works for nearly a year. In September 2009, all academic units in the Faculty of Arts & Science were asked to scrutinize their current activities and their ideas for the future, to identify their priorities in the context of current resources and to propose feasible plans for addressing those priorities. Each unit was asked to engage in broad consultation with their faculty, staff, students and other relevant interests in developing their plan. These unit plans were also informed by a 2008 external review of the Faculty, the University of Toronto’s key objectives as articulated in Towards 2030 and Faculty-wide priorities as articulated in Academic Planning in the Faculty of Arts & Science 2009-2014, Context and Directions. Please note that all documents relating to academic planning are posted on the Arts & Science Faculty-Staff website at http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff. The Arts & Science Students’ Union (ASSU) also developed a thoughtful submission to the planning process.

All plans were submitted in December 2009 to a Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) consisting of academic leaders from the Dean’s office, as well as representatives from the colleges, the humanities, social sciences and sciences. The SPC developed the Faculty’s plan over the course of hundreds of hours of evaluation and consultation, including a meeting with ASSU, and provided its recommendations in June 2010. I am especially grateful to the SPC for their dedication and hard work in this process.

The real work of implementation now begins. I look forward to your ongoing support as we work together to ensure that the Faculty’s academic programs and research activities are as strong and coherent as they can be and that students' learning needs are well met. As always, I look forward to receiving your thoughts and feedback at feedback@artsci.utoronto.ca. We also plan to hold town hall meetings for further discussion in the fall and will advise you when those are scheduled.

Yours Sincerely,

Meric S. Gertler, FRSC
Dean and Professor of Geography & Planning
Goldring Chair in Canadian Studies
Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St George Street, Suite 2005, Toronto, ON M5S 3G3 Canada
Tel: +1 416-978-3383, Fax: +1 416-978-3887, email: officeofthedean.artsci@utoronto.ca • www.artsci.utoronto.ca