

R. Barbara Gitenstein
TCNJ Clinic Update
October 31, 2017

Dear TCNJ Campus Community:

In my May 10, 2017 email, I informed the community that I had accepted Provost Taylor's recommendation to implement a program review process for the TCNJ Clinic associated with the Counselor Education Program. That process included a self-study by the clinic, a review by the Department of Counselor Education, and a review by Dr. Timothy Fowles and Dr. Yvonne Castillo, outside consultants recommended by the clinic review advisory committee, led by Dr. Ieva Zake. (The advisory committee was comprised of the clinic leadership, members of the Counselor Education faculty, and other internal and external community members.) After receiving those reports and in consultation with Dean Suzanne McCotter of the School of Education, Dean Carole Kenner of the School of Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science, and Mark Forest, Interim AVP for Health and Wellness and Director, Counseling and Psychological Services, Provost Taylor recommends that we create an incremental plan for incorporating the work of the current clinic into a center for health and wellness, a new entity with a larger scope.

The review process has provided evidence that the mission, scope of services, reporting structure, and process for ongoing assessment for this entity need to be carefully defined. In this new structure, the college has the opportunity to provide clinical experience to students, not just in the Counselor Education Program, but across a range of programs in Education and Nursing, Health, and Exercise Science. To this end, this center's mission will be to provide "integrative health services that recognize the relationship between the mind and body." By focusing on the whole person, the services will support wellness. Services will be available for students, faculty, staff and community members and the center will provide both a space for faculty practice and clinical experience for TCNJ undergraduate and graduate students.

The provost will immediately create a task force chaired by Deans Kenner and McCotter that will include faculty, staff, student, and community representation. The task force will finalize vision and mission statements, develop a timeline for both short and long term goals (specifically identifying what can be accomplished in Spring 2018 and within the following year) and assure the successful incorporation of the work of the current clinic.

I support Provost Taylor's decision and her recommendation for next steps. There has been so much good work from so many quarters that has charted a course in the right direction. I want to begin by thanking Provost Taylor for her wise recommendation to implement a thoughtful program review process and the skillful way in which she led the community through the program review process. In addition, thanks is due to Drs. Timothy Fowles and Yvonne Castillo, for their helpful report, to Drs. Kenner, McCotter, Zake, and Forest for their leadership and to the students, faculty, staff, and community members for their input into the review process.