



May 6, 2016

To the Stevens Community,

In a memo to the community in late March, I announced that, in anticipation of the departure of Dr. Dinesh Verma as Dean of the School of Systems and Enterprises (SSE), I would be meeting with academic leaders, faculty, students, and other stakeholders to gather input on the future organizational structure of the School of Systems and Enterprises.

Since then, I have had several group meetings with the Provost, Vice Provosts, Deans, Department and Program Directors, Associate Deans, the Faculty Senate, staff and faculty of SSE, and members of the SSE external advisory board. In addition, I have had about a dozen private, individual meetings with faculty on this topic, with several more scheduled in the coming weeks. Further, I have received approximately three dozen private emails from faculty outlining their thoughts about the future organizational structure of the school and its possible implications outside the school.

To summarize the input I have heard to date, there is no clear convergence in the feedback I have received from various members of the school and the community. Suggestions have ranged from splitting out certain programs within SSE, to creating an academic department dedicated to systems within the School of Engineering and Science, to reorganizing all faculty within the university according to broad interdisciplinary clusters, to retaining the current structure of SSE, among others.

A prevailing message I have heard, with which I totally concur, is that the outcome of this exercise should result in a structure that enables best-in-class systems engineering/systems science academic and research programs. It should also enable our growing financial engineering programs to flourish.

Because the leadership transition of SSE also coincides with the leadership transition in the Provost's office, I have assumed a more hands-on role in this academic issue than I would have in other circumstances. However, I fully intend to engage the new Provost, once named, in reviewing and assessing the options that will be developed.

Furthermore, I will soon appoint a committee of well-respected and objective Stevens faculty members that includes faculty both internal and external to SSE, to explore this issue and create a set of options to be considered by the incoming Provost and me. Any change in the structure of SSE may very well have implications for other academic units at Stevens, which would be carefully considered by this committee as well. Of course, whatever recommendations that emerge from this process will be considered by the Board of Trustees before implementation.

In an effort to ensure that all members of the Stevens community who wish to be heard on this issue are accommodated, I will be having a final "office hours" type meeting next **Wednesday, May 11 at 10:30 am – 12 pm**. Faculty and staff who have not yet attended any of the listening sessions to date are invited to attend this session to share their views; however, we ask that you please rsvp with my executive assistant, [Karen Cuozzo](#) to attend this session. Should anyone wish to meet with me privately, he or she may schedule a meeting by emailing [Karen Cuozzo](#).

*Per aspera ad astra,*

Nariman Farvardin  
President