November 30, 2010

Dr. Peter Lyons
Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. H. Fenwick Huss
Dean, J. Mack Robinson College of Business

Subject: Chair’s Overview of Department of Finance APR Self-Study Report

On behalf of the Department of Finance, it is my pleasure to submit our Self-Study Report conducted and prepared in accordance to the University’s Academic Program Review (APR) procedures. (Please see the accompanying CD, which includes the complete report with the tables, appendices, and other information as specified in the APR template.)

The Department’s APR Review Committee was co-chaired by Professors Peter Eisemann and Milind Shrikhande. The Committee worked diligently to evaluate the Department, assess strengths and weaknesses, and to identify future opportunities for further elevating the Department’s reputation and effectiveness of its programs. The strategic goals and objectives set forth in the report are the culmination of deliberations and input by the Department’s faculty and our internal and external stakeholders.

I have carefully reviewed the Committee’s findings and agree with their conclusions and recommendations. A brief overview of the self-study follows.

The Department of Finance enjoys a strong reputation among its constituents and its programs are viewed as an instrumental part of the Robinson College of Business’s mission to become a world class business school. A key strength of the Department is its faculty who are recognized for their outstanding achievements and are frequent recipients of the College’s annual excellence awards in teaching, research, and service.

Faculty instruction is generally of high quality and our various degree programs are innovative. Student demand for our product is high, and significant credit hours are generated at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. The Department’s average credit hours per section are roughly twice that of the University. Employers appear satisfied with the quality of graduates.

Faculty research is distinguished--tenure track faculty have led the College’s focus on premier journal publications while its clinical faculty are at the forefront of producing research in the area of the scholarship of teaching and learning (SOTL).

Faculty are also engaged in a broad array of valuable service activity spanning both the University, professional, and business communities.
During the course of our review we have identified a number of significant impediments that are preventing us from achieving higher levels of performance and recognition. These relate to faculty and other resource adequacy, the quality of student advisement and career services, doctoral program needs, and research support. In turn, we have developed a set of goals and objectives for addressing these needs so as to elevate the quality of our undergraduate and graduate programs as well as to provide the necessary support and resources for attracting and retaining a world class faculty.

We hope that the College and University will endorse the goals and objectives specified in the study and will be supportive of our strategies for their fulfillment. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Gerald D. Gay  
Professor and Chair,  
Department of Finance  
CD Attachment