

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Dean George L. McLendon  
Provost Peter Lange

FROM: John D. Simon, on behalf of members of the Task Force for Biological  
Anthropology and Anatomy

DATE: September 26, 2007

RE: Task Force

In August 2006, you both charged a Task Force to examine the current status of the Department of Biological Anthropology and Anatomy and recommend actions to be taken with respect to the future of this unit.

Over the past year we have reviewed previous task force reports as well as a large number of metrics associated with the education and research efforts of the department. We worked extensively with the current department to develop a vision statement for the future. The final vision statement, authored and signed by the entire department, is attached to this memo.

The Task Force endorses this vision and encourages you to move forward on two fronts. First, the current name, Biological Anthropology and Anatomy, does not reflect the focus of the department and the most important emerging intellectual areas for future opportunity. Yet the disciplines represented by this department are central to many strategic efforts on campus. We therefore encourage the Dean of Arts & Sciences to consider the proposed renaming of the unit. This has the added advantage that the process to change a name will engage other faculty governance groups in a discussion of the mission of this unit, and through those discussions we can sharpen how this unit can best meet its undergraduate mission and contribute to the broad related research efforts (IGSP, Cognitive Neuroscience, Primate Center ....) on campus. Second, the Task Force members strongly encourage you to seek an external Chair for this unit. The vision statement is an excellent foundation upon which a new Chair can build excellence in this area.

