



May 30, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in enthusiastic support of Dan Apple's, et al., proposal to design a prototype Results Measurement System. This system will literally be a model for making more accessible the kinds of outcomes college faculty and administrators need to understand and document.

I see the advantages from at least two perspectives. As a teaching faculty member, having benefited from past associations with Pacific Crest, I am committed to making assessment – which I consider the basis for learning – more relevant and understandable for students and for faculty. Pacific Crest's approach to Process Education places assessment at the core of the enterprise. Yet, for many faculty and students, assessment remains a daunting and even ethereal venture. A functioning RMS can reduce the threat, enhance the relevance of student outcome measure to real learning, and thereby engage small and large academic communities in continuous improvement.

As an administrator, I am especially concerned with linking program effectiveness (and its assessment) to learning, again something that difficult to accomplish. The RMS will encourage faculty and programs to link aspirations to specific learning interactions, and ultimately map those interactions in a way that will better answer the question, "How are we doing."

Pacific Crest and its associates comprise a vital network of encouragement for the advancement of process education. University of Massachusetts faculty and staff have been advantaged by these efforts, and will continue to be. (This summer I am sponsoring the attendance of faculty from the UMass campuses at a Teaching Institute and Assessment Institute inspired by Pacific Crest and offered at Northeastern University.) The University of Massachusetts System, now in the third year of a 10-year plan to enhance teaching and faculty development through the intelligent use of technology, will be most interested in this project.

For these reasons, I deeply hope the project will move forward. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Schlesinger', with a long, sweeping underline.

Mark A. Schlesinger
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