Dear Krieger School Faculty,

I am writing to follow up on the attached message that I sent last week regarding core academic matters in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences (KSAS). When the Whiting School of Engineering requested to leave the Homewood Academic Council (HAC)—a joint body with KSAS—it became incumbent on us to plan together what our own, faculty-led body or bodies would look like.

Any new KSAS-only body or bodies would of course continue to focus on and address the following: appointment, promotion, and tenure recommendations; KSAS educational programs; and other matters currently within the purview of HAC. That will not change. Neither will the level of excellence HAC has achieved to which we have all become accustomed.

As a first step, I have established a committee to guide the way forward. In order to cultivate a sense of community and inclusivity, it is important that members of the committee include faculty members across disciplines and all ranks. To that end, I have invited current and past elected members of the Homewood Academic Council and the KSAS Faculty Senate to be on the committee as well as faculty members from the humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. I am pleased to announce the following members:

Richard Bett, Professor, Philosophy
Amy Binder, Professor, Sociology
Stephen Campbell, Professor, History of Art
Stefanie DeLuca, Professor, Sociology
Bill Egginton, Professor, Modern Languages and Literatures
Lisa Feigenson, Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Emily Fisher, Associate Teaching Professor, Biology
Bertrand Garcia-Moreno, Professor, Biophysics
Martha Jones, Professor, History (will join after returning from leave)
Dean Moyar, Professor, Philosophy
Christopher Nealon, Professor, English
Sarah O’Byrne, Senior Lecturer, Governmental Studies, Advanced Academic Programs
Alison Papadakis, Teaching Professor, Psychological and Brain Sciences
Eric Puchner, Associate Professor, The Writing Seminars
David Savitt, Professor, Mathematics
Trina Schroer, Professor, Biology
Robbie Shilliam, Professor, Political Science
Dawn Teele, Associate Professor, Political Science
The group includes four current members of HAC, four current members of the KSAS Faculty Senate, department chairs, members of the Dean’s Office, and other academic leaders in our community. Currently, we are working on a charge that will be posted soon on the KSAS Faculty Affairs webpage for public comment.

The first action of this faculty-led committee will be to select a chair from among the former or current members of HAC on the committee listed above. They will also examine norms at other institutions. When additional KSAS faculty members are needed to join this work, I will work closely with HAC and with our KSAS Faculty Senate to identify new members.

The work of this new committee is not premeditated. Members will define the work together. We are shaping the future of the Krieger School, and that will not happen overnight. The process will call for long, iterative conversations among many faculty members in different fora.

As the committee moves forward, regular progress reports will be posted on the KSAS Faculty Affairs webpage: https://sites.krieger.jhu.edu/faculty-affairs/. There is also a place for you to make comments and ask questions.

This is a time of growth and opportunity for the Krieger School. I am grateful for everything you do for our institution.

Sincerely,

Christopher S. Celenza
James B. Knapp Dean