



May 12, 2019

Re: Proposal to Establish a Center for Teaching and Learning

Dear Provost Lien,

At your direction and as part of my responsibilities as Interim Assistant Provost, I established an ad hoc taskforce in spring 2019 to examine the possibility of establishing a Center for Teaching and Learning at Northern State University. Many universities, including most of Northern's peer institutions, support some type of center dedicated to promoting professional development and excellence in pedagogy. Such a center would align with the approach of Strategic Doing recently adopted by the University and the College of Arts and Sciences.¹ Properly designed and resourced, a center would make a key contribution helping faculty to institutionalize High-Impact Educational Practices, as identified by the AACU's Leap Initiative, across campus and thereby promote a campus culture dedicated to continuous improvement in professional development, active learning, and innovative pedagogy.²

The proposal consists of two attachments:

- 1) Preliminary draft rationale and position posting first proposed in January 2019.³ This document provides some early background pertaining to a potential center and could be revised in light of the work of the taskforce;
- 2) Proposal to establish a Center for Teaching and Learning at Northern.

The proposal is a result of a methodical and deliberate process involving:

- 1) An examination of current practices at Northern related to professional development in teaching and learning;
- 2) A review of staffing, structure, and activities related to centers at other universities with an emphasis on institutions similar to Northern;
- 3) A survey of Northern faculty to gauge the effectiveness of current practices at Northern and potential demand for other professional development opportunities.

¹ See the document: *The Pursuit of Excellence: A Blueprint for Continuous Learning, Doing, and Improving across the College of Arts and Sciences, 2019-2020*, drafted by Dean Joshua Hagen and Interim Associate Dean Alyssa Kiesow, April 28, 2019.

² <https://www.aacu.org/leap/hips>

³ See *Investing for the Future: Strategic Priorities in the College of Arts and Sciences*, drafted by Dean Joshua Hagen and the Faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences, January 19, 2018.



I served as Co-Chair of the Taskforce but only in a nominal sense due to other obligations. Dr. Courtney Waid-Lindberg served as the other Co-Chair and provided overall leadership of the taskforce, working closely with Drs. Kristi Brownfield, Jessica Danielson, John Peterson, Andrew Russell, and Anna Schwan. They should be credited for pulling together such an impressive proposal in such a short time.

I look forward to discussing this proposal with you and other colleagues in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Josh Hagen', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Joshua Hagen