August 13, 2012

Dear COE Faculty,

Welcome back to the start of what we look forward to be another successful academic year at the College of Education. Whether you were teaching, conducting research, or taking time off, we hope you thoroughly enjoyed your summer and are re-energized to engage in the exciting initiatives the COE will be focusing on this fall—one of which is the ongoing implementation of Tk20.

Tk20 is an online data management system that enables students to actively engage in their education through the use of innovative technology and interactive learning. At the program level, faculty members are able to assess the work students submit and use collected data to inform yearly program assessment reports. By utilizing Tk20 for student learning outcomes assessment, we are also able to improve program support and meet our requirements for accreditation. In addition, Tk20 provides students with a rich set of tools to create professional portfolios, which they then have the ability to share with colleagues or potential employers.

As you know, this spring the COE successfully completed the first phase of Tk20 implementation. As a result, students and faculty from our undergraduate teacher preparation programs were able to log into the Tk20 system for the first time and upload course assignments and assessments—providing us with our first set of consolidated electronic data for future assessment reporting. This accomplishment would not have been possible without your support and dedicated work efforts, for which we are sincerely thankful.

We ask for your continued efforts as we proceed with the second phase of implementation during the upcoming fall semester. Over the course of the summer, our Tk20 support staff and COE program coordinators have been diligently compiling and configuring assessment documents in Tk20. As a result, all COE programs with key assessments will be established in Tk20 at the start of the fall semester—a significant accomplishment that we can all take pride in.

During Phase II implementation, you will have the opportunity to interact with the system in order to ensure your students are able to upload the required assignments for your courses. Our success depends on your ability to effectively utilize Tk20 as a course-based assessment tool; therefore the COE Center for Student Success will be collaborating with the Tk20 Faculty Leadership Team to conduct training sessions with faculty in order to ensure a smooth execution of Phase II implementation. These training sessions will provide you with instructions for logging in, navigating the system, and submitting assignments. In addition to training sessions, our Tk20 support staff will be available for technical assistance during the semester. Please be attentive to upcoming E-mail communication regarding these trainings, as your attendance will be requested.

We understand the challenges that accompany the start of a new semester and we greatly value your time and dedication. The task of integrating an entire college into a new online system is a monumental task—one that will require the collaborative efforts of our faculty, students, and staff. However, as we move forward, I encourage you to remember that when we work collaboratively, we succeed collaboratively. I look forward to working with each of you in the coming months as we work toward our goals at the College of Education.

Best regards,

Dr. David Scott
Associate Dean for Research