Dear Dr. Russell:

In response to your request of September 16th to provide suggestions on revising the “Program Productivity Review Request for Exemptions” form, the CAOs from the COPHE institutions met on September 22nd. They discussed the form and the review process for this statewide program review and thought it would be most helpful if they provided one response that reflected consensus on the following points:

- They appreciated the opportunity to provide feedback on the review process to MDHE and see this effort as an iterative process.
- They expressed concern about the timeline you laid out in your September 16th letter—in that the timeline was too aggressive since faculty or Board input might be required for program consolidation or elimination.
- They believe using a four-digit CIP code to review programs would be more appropriate if the goal is to produce cost-savings and a meaningful assessment of actual low-producing programs.

In addition, the CAOs made a number of suggestions for changing the form so that it would allow them more opportunity for explanations and documentation. I have attached a “redlined” version of the “Program Productivity Review Request for Exemptions” form highlighting the suggested changes.

The CAOs look forward to the opportunity to visit with you and other MDHE staff on September 29th in Jefferson City to discuss the complicated issue of program review and to help you and your staff design a process that will make higher education stronger in Missouri.

Regards,

Brian Long on behalf of the COPHE institutions