

December 18, 2008

Dear Student,

I am writing to let you know that we have heard from Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology about funding the affiliation agreement with the University. What I say below is very important and I would appreciate it if you would read it all very carefully.

First, I regret to tell you that the Minister has decided **not** to fund the affiliation agreement between Taylor and the University of Alberta. His reasoning was very much as we anticipated: that the affiliation really wasn't justified by a viable business plan that fit into the Roles and Mandates that are used to fund post-secondary education in Alberta. We knew that this was the case, but we hoped that the Minister would override this concern in order to support Taylor into the future. We are disappointed by this decision, but are not completely surprised by it. We also very much appreciate the serious consideration this affiliation agreement was given by the University of Alberta, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology, and the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, the Honourable Doug Horner.

Second, this decision comes at the end of a rather lengthy process in which we have explored a variety of options for sustaining the University College into the future. With the removal of this option, we have arrived at a very difficult decision. This next semester, winter 2009, will be the last regular semester offered as Taylor University College, and this spring's commencement will be the final graduation ceremony.

I know that this may come as a shock, but I need to explain two very important things to you.

1. The first thing for you to know is that Taylor is in the process of finalizing an agreement with other University Colleges that will allow our students to block transfer all courses and credits. Your work at Taylor, including your courses in the upcoming term, will be fully credited at a number of other institutions so that you will not lose any of the work you have done here.

This is very important for students, and it presents a compelling reason to return to Taylor for the winter term. With this agreement, several local University Colleges will be agreeing to waive a variety of curriculum/degree requirements in order to help you finish your program that they don't waive for regular transferring students. The Alberta government has also offered its support in making sure that the needs of Taylor students will be fully met through such agreements. In short, if you would have needed only one more year to finish your degree here at Taylor (for example), you will only need one more year to finish your degree from the school with which we have the agreement. As you can see, applying to transfer before the academic year is over could be less beneficial than transferring under the terms of the agreements being put in place.

You will no doubt have a lot of questions and concerns about your own situation, and when you return to Taylor, the University College Registrar will begin the process of helping you understand the implications for you.

2. We need to be very clear that Taylor is not closing. Although the institution will not be offering undergraduate degrees, Taylor Seminary will continue to offer courses in the next academic year. This decision only affects the University College, not the other educational offerings of the

institution. It is our belief that the Seminary and other educational ministries of Taylor will ultimately be strengthened by the difficult decision we have made.

Please know that Taylor is fully committed to serving you and working in your best interest, and we pledge to communicate any new developments as quickly as we can. Again, if you have questions about the impact of these changes on you and your program, feel free to set up an appointment with the University College Registrar to talk more about it.

On a happier note, our enrolment numbers for the upcoming semester are strong, and it is our intention to make this term outstanding in every way possible. We are even now beginning to plan for a whole semester of celebrating what God has done in and through this institution, and that includes what God has done in your life while you were here. There will no doubt be sadness this semester, but our hope is that there will be an even stronger sense of gratefulness and celebration for what God has accomplished through Taylor over the years. We hope that the energy, the vitality, and the sense of unity that characterized the fall term will be evident again this next semester. Please join us in making this semester-long celebration the very best it can be!

Thank you for making Taylor such a great place to be this past semester, and for considering this as a place to learn and grow. We hope you have a blessed Christmas holiday, and we look forward to seeing you back with us in January.

Shalom,

Dr. David Williams, President
Taylor University College and Seminary