



January 30, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your investment of time and expertise to research, plan, and propose a comprehensive three phased approach for providing financial literacy education to our students. We are all in agreement that financial literacy education can benefit all students, regardless of their background and career goals.

The Student Financial Literacy proposal is thorough and demonstrates your thoughtfulness in creating a plan that has the potential to positively impact all Belmont students. By incorporating financial literacy education into existing course offerings and developing convocation opportunities, we can deliver robust financial literacy curriculum on a regular basis.

More specifically, the following recommendations are approved by the senior leadership team:

- Development of a standardized curriculum covering critical components of financial literacy that is woven throughout students' time and experiences at Belmont including sharing appropriate material during prospective students' visits
- Development of curriculum by faculty experts
- Development of a peer to peer advising program connecting knowledgeable students with their peers to teach financial principles and advise on budgeting, borrowing, and preparing for the future

To begin, Dr. Burns and I will work with Dr. Andy Miller and Dr. John Gonas to identify faculty experts to assist with curriculum development. Key leaders will be included as we move forward with implementation. Our goal will be to present appropriate material for incoming freshmen at Orientation and Welcome Week this summer and to incorporate prospective student material in daily admissions visits and/or Preview Days beginning in Fall 2017. If further curricular development proceeds according to your proposed timeline, current students will benefit from the Bell Core and convocation learning opportunities the following year. At this time, we are not approving a mandatory convocation category; however, we agree that we expect each phase of your proposal to maintain fluidity and adaptation to edits and best practices. Also, as we move forward, additional information is needed regarding learning opportunities with an online module.

As noted in the conclusion of your report, these recommendations provide a path for Belmont "to reach prospective and incoming students" and for current students "to learn and exercise financial literacy and sound stewardship."

My interest in this subject is both professional and personal as I have spent much of my career working with families to navigate the realities of financing a college education, while also having the privilege of watching lives be changed and doors opened as a result of earning a college degree.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula Gill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P".

Paula Gill