



THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

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ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Gertrude Eaton
Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
and Chair, Defense Acquisition University Board of Visitors
University of Maryland
3300 Metzert Road
Adelphi, Maryland 20783-1690

Gertrude
Dear Dr. Eaton,

Thank you for sharing with me the views from the September 1998 Board of Visitors meeting concerning the current accomplishments and future directions of the Defense Acquisition University. Your leadership is very much appreciated. I confess to missing the times I spent in your chair and the lively discussions that each meeting brought. Please give my regards and thanks to each member. We are all committed to making the Defense Acquisition University a world-class learning institution, and the Board's recommendations are an important part of the process.

Enrolling the right students in the right courses is critically important to the educational process and for ensuring that our workforce is properly trained and educated. One focus is to ensure that students meet course prerequisites, except for academically valid exceptions. The quality of our offerings is paramount. "Dumming down" courses is not acceptable to me. As such, the DAU President, Tom Crean, has provided me an action plan, which I am providing with this letter, to resolve the prerequisite issues. He will brief the Board on the prerequisite actions addressed in this plan at the next meeting.

I note with pleasure your assessment of the briefing of the plans for an external research program, because I have always felt that needed attention. External partnerships with professional associations, industry, and academia are an important area DAU is addressing. They will continue to pursue an external research program and will provide an update on their progress at the next meeting.

Tom will also keep you and the rest of the Board advised on our progress in the other areas you mentioned, especially the DAU transition plan and our experience with technology-based learning initiatives. We are working diligently in these areas to ensure we are leveraging our resources to the maximum extent possible.

Thank you again for your report, and I look forward to the next one.

Sincerely,

J. S. Gansler
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Attachment
As stated

