February 10, 2016

Dear Student,

As Hartwick’s chief academic officer, I am pleased to share our recommendations for enhancing and expanding Hartwick’s academic offerings. These recommendations attempt to address the needs and interests of both our current and future students.

As you may know, in Fall 2015, the President and I undertook a review of 12 of Hartwick’s academic programs. Based upon our findings, we are recommending the addition of six new majors, the revision of several majors, and the elimination of three current majors.

We recommend new majors in Media Studies, Global Studies, Criminal Justice and Legal Studies, Music Performance, Actuarial Math, and Public Health. Majors in German, French and Information Science will be eliminated, for incoming students, effective in Fall 2016. The future of two additional majors, Religious Studies and Philosophy, will be discussed with departmental faculty over the next two months.

These changes will not adversely affect your progress toward graduation or require you to change your major. They will affect only new students who enroll in Fall 2016 and thereafter. Hartwick will continue to offer coursework in all current disciplines, including German, French and information science, to keep pace with student interest in and demand for high quality instruction in these subjects.

No current full-time faculty members will lose their jobs. The number of faculty in some disciplines will be reduced through retirement or other voluntary departures over the next few years. These proposed changes would result in the hiring of ten faculty members. Some of these faculty will teach in new majors, while others will replace retiring faculty in current majors.

The costs associated with these program additions and changes will be paid for through the reallocation of resources as faculty retire. We will not reduce student financial aid to pay for these changes. Student financial assistance is our largest institutional expense and a top priority to which we remain fully dedicated.

These recommendations will be reviewed with the Faculty, and some must be approved by Hartwick’s Board of Trustees and the NYS Education Department before they are implemented. Additional recommendations may emerge as a result of further discussion. We welcome your interest in this process and encourage you to remain informed about its progress during the weeks and months ahead.

Additional information on each recommendation is available in an online FAQ at http://www.hartwick.edu/AcadProgramRecs. We encourage you to access this link for answers to any additional questions you may have on these topics. If you have questions, please email them to APRQuestions@Hartwick.edu. In addition, we have scheduled a community Forum in Slade Theater for Friday, Feb. 12, at 3:30 pm, to which all Hartwick students, faculty, and staff are invited to provide comment and ask questions about these recommendations. We are confident that these recommendations will help us to achieve fiscal sustainability while continuing to assure the quality of a Hartwick education.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Tannenbaum, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs