

August 8, 2020

Dr. Ross Stewart, Dean
School of Business, Government, and Economics
Seattle Pacific University



Dear Ross,

This spring and summer, I've become convinced that my retirement, long planned for 2024, must instead come next summer. You may consider this note my formal announcement of my plan to retire. This is no surprise as I have been more than hinting about this decision for months. My entire family urges me to make this move. The actual retirement date could be as early as June 30, 2021 or as late as mid-September, depending on the needs of SBGE. We can discuss options when we meet on the 18th.

As an undergraduate at the University of Washington, after the Air Force ROTC let me go due to my eyesight, I'd intended to become a high school teacher and coach. I had no intention of pursuing a career in the Academy. But two Engineering professors, true mentors, asked me to stay on at the UW and teach the subject I had tutored for three years. I became a Lecturer in the College of Engineering at the age of 22.

While teaching, I took the opportunity to earn two more degrees, and eventually served as the Undergraduate Chair of the Industrial Engineering Program. After twelve years, it was time to move on. In truth, I was an Electrical Engineering drop out, not an Engineer. I had multiple interviews with two organizations, SPU and IBM. SPU made the first offer.

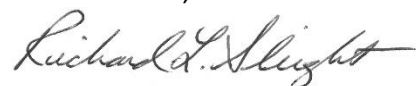
I met Joe Hope briefly, but it was Ken Knight who offered me the MBA Coordinator position — a sudden need for SBE in the spring of 1991. SPU had laid off 30 Exempt Staff members in December 1990, including most of what was then called the Academic Advising Center. I also got an offer from DCS but reasoned that the position in SBE would be more secure and a better fit for one with a background in Economics and Statistics. It was the right call.

The Internet arrived in the mid-1990's and my interest in computers, and the needs of SBE, encouraged Alec Hill to craft a new position for me. Jeff Van Duzer called me SBE's CIO. I have seen myself as the school's servant, and its liaison with SAS, CIS, and Facilities.

Twelve years at the big school up the canal, and now 32 more here, makes a sufficient career. It will take this final year for me to extricate myself from the many and diverse responsibilities I have in SBGE.

Ahead of me I see grandchildren and gardens, Bible teaching, and more books and projects lined up than could fill another 32 years. Some in SBGE I will miss because I know you so well. Others who joined after I moved to an office with a window, I hardly know. It has been my great pleasure to serve in SBGE at SPU.

Yours and HIS,



Richard L. Sleight, Ph.D.
Manager of Information Systems, Instructor

cc: Dr. Gary Karns
Dr. Kim Sawers