30 November 1993

TO: Pris Bowerman, for the Deans

FROM: Burt Guttman

SUBJECT: Visions

Although I need more time to write this up properly for you, I wanted to send you this to give you a general view of my vision. So far, I've received a dozen or so very favorable responses, but I haven't had time to get all of us together and talk about the next step.

In any case, you'll see that my vision for the College is a greatly increased emphasis on environmental matters--not "environment across the curriculum," and not simply an enlarged Environmental Studies area (though I imagine that will be an important feature). Rather, I would try to get people to see the enormous tangled complex of issues and problems--largely social, political, and economic, as well as scientific--that center around overpopulation, pollution, and destruction of ecosystems. Once that is recognized, I would envision some current faculty members turning more of their teaching in that direction, and I would envision hiring more people of like mind. I would also like to stress that our tradition of interdisciplinary study makes it natural for the College, as a whole, to devote much of its effort to these highly complex, interdisciplinary problems.

I will try to write something more for you soon. What kind of deadline do you have?