



## **Staff Advisory Committee Rice University**

### **Statement of Support for the Call to Conversation**

On behalf of the staff of Rice University, the Staff Advisory Committee (SAC) strongly endorses President Leebron's Call to Conversation (C2C). Staff members recognize that Rice is at a turning point and want to participate in and further the discussion about the university's future, whether they are departmental or college coordinators, library and IT staff, custodians, or research staff. The process of soliciting input from the staff has been open and inviting; staff members feel that their voices have been heard and that they have a stake in the decision-making process.

Staff members were honored to be the first group with whom President Leebron held open forums on the C2C. During the two hour-and-a-half long sessions, held on July 26 and 28, 2005, staff actively engaged President Leebron on the issues raised in his brief presentation, asked thoughtful questions, provided positive feedback and suggestions, and expressed their gratitude at being included in the process. Likewise, staff enthusiastically contributed to the online survey, logging the most responses behind alumni and students. The feedback offered in the surveys was thoughtful and positive, covering topics such as increasing the size of the student body, constructing new facilities, enhancing Rice's relationship with the greater Houston community, and initiating new academic programs. Comments from the staff, such as "I sincerely value the fact that everyone has been asked for their input and opinions on how best to achieve the University's goals and assist with determining what those actual goals should be," indicate their enthusiasm and support of the process.

As feedback given in the staff forum and the online survey indicates, staff actively support the Call to Conversation and believe that this has been a true conversation rather than a monologue. The Call to Conversation process has recognized the important role played by everyone in the Rice community, both in imagining and ultimately in realizing, the university's future.