Greetings from the Faculty of Randolph College  

on the occasion of  
The Inauguration of President Bradley W. Bateman  
Saturday, April 26, 2014  

Dennis M. Goff  
Chair, Faculty Representative Committee and the Charles A. Dana Professor of Psychology

The Faculty of Randolph College enthusiastically welcomes Bradley Bateman as our 10th President! He brings to us a passion for the Liberal Arts and a set of skills that are much needed at this time in our history.

This College was founded more than 120 years ago, with the mission of providing women with an excellent liberal arts education. You might recall, that a few years ago we decided to offer that same education to the sons and brothers of those women; so that now we offer it equally to all women and men. While that transition was underway, the outside world stubbornly refused to be still and began to doubt the inherent value of a liberal arts education. Interest seems to have shifted toward valuing a diploma more than an education. We believe that President Bateman’s vision and rhetorical skill will help us to reestablish the public view that an excellent liberal arts education is the best preparation for a “life more abundant.”

Based on his rich career of teaching, scholarship, and service we also have welcomed President Bateman as a member of our faculty. The ideas that we heard yesterday convince me that we at Randolph have the foundation for providing an exceptional liberal arts education. Of course, we want to convince a few more people to utilize that opportunity. We are confident that President Bateman will again help us to articulate the advantages we offer here at Randolph. More importantly we know he will bolster our strengths and support improvement in our curriculum where it might be needed.

Students at Randolph experience excellent teaching and advising. Still, we need to find ways to further develop President Bateman’s idea that we should our send students outside of the red brick wall for more volunteer experiences and internships in the wider world. When they bring those experiences back to campus we need to help them identify the courses and co-curricular challenges that will best help them achieve the goals that emerge from those experiences.

Of course there is much more work that we will do together. President Bateman, we look forward to your long and productive presidency.