To the National Defense University (NDU) President and Board of Visitors (BoV),

As an American tax-payer actively supporting our national defense as leader of a global network of over 100,000 cybersecurity professionals, I appreciate the opportunity to provide input into the discussion under review during the 5 August 2019 BoV meeting at NDU.

I am very familiar with the NDU College of Information and Cyberspace (CIC) and its rich history of contributions to our national defense since its origin in the 1960s as the DoD Computer Institute (DoDCI), through its rebranding as the Information Resources Management College (IRMC) and then iCollege, and today as CIC. I actively support its unique role ensuring more senior Joint Warfighters understand the complexities of information and cyberspace challenges to our national defense.

As you may or may not understand the depth of, our nation is completely under-prepared for current and future conflicts with any reasonably capable nation due to our tremendous information and cyberspace related vulnerabilities, and our lack of personnel who truly understand the scope of the threat as well as potential solutions. In short, many military planners do not understand that we can no longer assume our ships, planes, or tanks make it to their desired locations or are able to function as intended.

A root problem of our under-preparedness in this respect is the lack of information and cyberspace understanding across the senior leadership of our defense community, and CIC is uniquely positioned to help solve this problem. That is why I strongly recommend against any decision that would reduce CIC capability, and encourage the development of other options that would solve NDU problems without reducing CIC capability in any way.

The leadership changes proposed clearly reduce CIC capability by removing the current CIC positions of full-time Chancellor (SES) and Deputy Chancellor (Ambassador) and replacing that dedicated leadership team with a full-time Dean and part-time Commandant (shared with the larger Eisenhower School). While the Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor have remained unfilled vacancies since summer of 2018, and a single Dean has been serving as acting Chancellor (and also covering the Deputy Chancellor function), that should not be seen as a sustainable approach for the long term.

Again, thank you for this opportunity and for your role in our nation's defense.

Regards,
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