Philadelphia University Names Russell Kershaw, Ph.D., interim dean of Butler University College of Business Administration, as dean of the School of Business Administration

PHILADELPHIA, April 11 – Russell F. Kershaw, interim dean of the College of Business Administration at Butler University, has been appointed dean of Philadelphia University’s School of Business Administration effective July 9.

Since becoming interim dean at the Indianapolis campus in June 2007, Dr. Kershaw has managed all strategic and operational aspects of the business college, which enrolls 630 undergraduates and 275 graduate students and has an $8 million budget. At Butler, Dr. Kershaw was a strong proponent of curriculum innovation and led various initiatives to redesign curricula and develop new courses, programs and teaching methods.

As associate dean of academic programs, from 2005 to 2007, and director of graduate programs, from 2003 to 2006, Kershaw helped develop a grant proposal to transform the business curriculum that resulted in a $22 million grant from the Lilly Endowment for the Butler Business Accelerator, an unusual, college-run consulting business that helps local businesses and provides professional development opportunities for students and faculty. This was the single largest grant ever received by Butler.

“Dean Russ Kershaw has been a phenomenal leader and has created a vision for business education that is professional, applied and consistent with our mission at Philadelphia University,” said Jeffrey D. Senese, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty. “He appreciates the significant opportunities to innovate and create relationships across our schools that can be used to enrich and expand our reach and ambitions.”

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“It is clear to me that Russ Kershaw is the right person to lead the School of Business Administration,” said Philadelphia University President Stephen Spinelli Jr., who spent 30 years as an entrepreneur, educator and administrator at one of the world’s top business schools. “Dean Kershaw possesses all the attributes required of a 21st century business school dean and I am so pleased he is joining the Philadelphia University team.”

Dr. Kershaw joined Butler University in 1996 as an assistant professor, and was named associate professor in 2001. From 2001 to 2006, he was Carl K. Doty Professor and accounting area chair, responsible for administration of the accounting program, for which he developed a new five-year B.S./M.S. accounting program. From 2003 to 2005, he chaired Butler’s curriculum development committee, for which he led the process of refocusing the undergraduate curriculum to provide students with an integrative business experience.

From 1981 to 1990, he held a variety of business and managerial positions at Digital Equipment Corp., rising to manufacturing controller and a member of the executive team, and prior to that he worked at General Electric Company.

Dr. Kershaw received his B.S. in accounting from Bentley College, an M.B.A. from Babson College, and a Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. His primary research interests focus on decision making and other behavioral issues associated with strategic cost analysis and performance measurement. He has written numerous professional articles, most recently “Measuring Performance During Economic Slowdowns” in 2004 for the Journal of Cost Management, and has presented at professional conferences.

He has twice been awarded the Alpha Kappa Psi outstanding faculty award, in 2000 and 2002, and received the Lybrand Gold Medal-IMA for outstanding article of the year in 2001. Dean Kershaw is a member of the American Accounting Association, Financia Executives International and the Institute of Management Accountants.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,300 full- and part-time students enrolled in more than 50 undergraduate and graduate programs. As part of its core mission, the University focuses on professionally oriented programs that prepare students for successful careers, with a strong foundation in the liberal arts and an orientation toward interdisciplinary cooperation. Philadelphia University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Media, Engineering and Textiles, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.