



OFFICE *of the* PROVOST

Update from the Provost: A Time of Transition

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues:

After over 20 years in administrative roles, and six of those as Provost and Senior Vice President, I have made the decision to return to my home discipline beginning in 2023. I will continue to serve in my current role through the end of this calendar year. President Saunders will launch a national search when faculty return for the fall semester. The new Campus Master Plan, University Strategic Plan, and the Strategic Enrollment Plan will provide the University and the Division of Academic Affairs with the written foundation to move into the next phase of excellence.

It is impossible to convey what a privilege it has been to serve the University of West Florida in several administrative roles, but especially in my current role and under the leadership of President Saunders. This is not a decision I have made lightly or quickly, but it is the right decision for me and my family.

At the heart of any successes I may be able to point to during my role as provost are the myriad contributions you, faculty and staff, have made and continue to make every day to our division and to the University of West Florida. Time and again, you have exhibited tremendous dedication, professionalism, and ever patient collegiality as we have navigated our way through the challenges of performance-based funding, the Covid-19 environment, the sudden shift to online instruction and remote work, hurricane damage to our campus, budget uncertainties, and day-to-day operations of the Division of Academic Affairs. It has been quite a journey, and I am honored to have been on it with you.

I will continue to give my professional best as provost through 2022 and will then begin to retool for my return to my home discipline in the Department of History and Philosophy.

Thank you for your role in making the University of West Florida the very best institution it can be.

Sincerely and with great respect,

George

July 12, 2022