



OFFICE *of the* PROVOST

End of Semester Update from the Provost

Faculty and Staff,

As the spring semester comes to a close, I hope everyone has had an outstanding semester. And I hope to see you all at commencement on Saturday, May 4, to celebrate our graduating students.

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you for a productive semester. We accomplished a lot and I appreciate everyone's hard work. All academic departments revised their bylaws and nearly all are approved with more approvals to come. We also recently launched the AI Taskforce to help guide us through the ever changing and challenging AI landscape; more information to come on this front later.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, a primary focus will be student success. In fact, we are planning a student-success-themed fall faculty forum on Tuesday, August 13. There is a plethora of literature on practical, effective pedagogical strategies that when used in the classroom, improve student performance. These strategies are generally used to build a welcoming and accessible classroom, which in turn fosters belonging and engagement. The idea is to create an environment that helps students rise to the level of rigor that is expected in your courses.

I also wanted to highlight that we will be developing a 5-year strategic plan for scholarly and creative activities, and a major component will be sponsored research. We are also currently working on streamlining some of our processes such as the CCR process and course scheduling.

Finally, we are planning to host a faculty awards ceremony on Thursday, November 21, that will be separate from Honors Convocation. This new event will be dedicated to honoring faculty while Honors Convocation will focus on student achievements. Nominations for faculty awards will open at the beginning of the fall semester.

I hope everyone has an excellent summer.

Thank you for all you do,

Jaromy

May 3, 2024