

MEMORANDUM

To: University Community

From: Douglas Wartzok
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Re: Reorganization within the Office of the Provost

I am pleased to announce that Michele Ciccazzo, Associate Dean in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, has accepted my invitation to serve as Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. She will be assuming many of the responsibilities of the vacant Vice President for Academic Affairs position while I serve as Interim Provost. Dr. Ciccazzo has a long record of academic leadership at FIU. She served as Interim Dean of the College of Public Health for two years during which time she successfully oversaw the merger of Public Health and Social Work. Dr. Ciccazzo, a faculty member in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, has been recognized for her teaching as a TIP recipient, and received the Outstanding Dietetic Educator Award from the American Dietetic Association in 1996 and 2005.

The Office of the Provost is taking a higher percentage of budget cuts than any of the schools or colleges this year. In response to these reductions, the Office of the Provost has reviewed ways to enhance operational efficiencies and will eliminate four vice provost positions. The positions of Vice Provost for Academic Personnel, Vice Provost for Program Review, Vice Provost for International Studies, and Vice Provost for FIU Online have been eliminated. Joyce Elam who has served as both Vice Provost for FIU Online and Executive Dean of the College of Business Administration has agreed to continue in her leadership for one more year in the College of Business Administration as well as accepting the additional responsibilities of Dean of a new unit to be called University College that will include FIU Online and most of the functions of Continuing and Professional Studies (CAPS). CAPS is also being closed. In addition to Dean Elam wearing two hats for the next year, Dean West continues in his dual role as Vice Provost for Biscayne Bay Campus and Dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. I thank both of these colleagues for taking on double assignments during these difficult budget times.

Elizabeth Bejar, currently serving as Assistant Provost, has been appointed Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Accountability. As we prepare our SACS reaffirmation of accreditation compliance documents it has become clear that planning, accountability, and assessment cannot be an episodic, decadal activity. We must have a strong, continuing organizational structure to maintain our current initiatives into the future. The Office of Academic Planning and Accountability will include institutional effectiveness, and academic planning and program review. The unified focus of these efforts will be the foundation for a sustainable framework for future accreditation cycles

at the university and an office which will serve as the repository of institutional knowledge and best practices with regard to assessment. Consistent with the national trend in higher education, this office will also have responsibility for the implementation of academic strategic plans. Dr. Bejar will maintain many of her current roles in academic affairs including serving as the important conduit to our Council of Associate and Assistant Deans and working with international and inter-institutional agreements.

Please join me in congratulating Michele, Elizabeth, and Joyce for their new roles and responsibilities, and thanking Joe for continuing to occupy two administrative positions. As Ken Johnson, Kyle Perkins, and Doug Kincaid return to the faculty, I want to especially thank them for their years of service and dedication to academic administration at this university. I would also like to thank Mercedes Ponce and her colleagues in CAPS for their contributions and service over many years. During the coming weeks we will provide further information to the academic units regarding the realignment of these responsibilities and contacts within Academic Affairs.