MEMORANDUM

To: University Community

From: Kenneth G. Furton, Provost and Executive Vice President

Date: May 8, 2015

Re: Wolfsonian-FIU Museum Directorship and Cultural Arts Liaison

I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Dr. Timothy Rodgers as Director of The Wolfsonian-FIU Museum effective July 1, 2015.

Dr. Rodgers has served as the director of the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA) in Scottsdale, Arizona, as well as Vice President of the Scottsdale Cultural Council (SCC), a private, non-profit organization that administers the city’s arts and cultural programs and facilities for the past six years.

As director of SMoCA, he successfully oversaw over 20 employees and a budget of $2.2 million while producing up to 12 exhibitions annually. He attracted 160 new works assessed at $4.25 million to the museum’s permanent collection and increased its endowment by $520,000.

In his function as VP of the SCC, Dr. Rodgers assisted the council’s CEO with managing more than 100 employees and an annual budget of $10 million. The SCC is publicly as well as privately funded and its mission is to manage and connect with the community the city-owned SMoCA, Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts and Scottsdale Public Art Program.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rodgers made it a mission to link arts and education as a way to enrich people’s lives. His academic profile includes an appointment as Visiting Professor of Contemporary Art and Theory at the College of Santa Fe from 2005-2008. Prior to that, he served in various academic and leadership capacities at Lawrence University at Appleton, Wisconsin, including Associate Professor of Art History; Director of the university’s London Study Centre in London, England; and as Director and Curator of the Wriston Art Center Galleries. Dr. Rodgers has over 15 journal articles or museum publications and over forty professional paper presentations. Dr. Rodgers earned a B.A. in Art from Arizona State University, an A.M. in History of Art and a Ph.D. in History of Art, both from Brown University.
I would like to thank Sharon Misdea and Casey Steadman for their leadership as interim co-directors of the Wolfsonian-FIU over the last year. I would also like to recognize the efforts of the search and screen committee chaired by Senior Vice President of External Relations, Sandy Gonzalez-Levy.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Rodgers to FIU and to the South Florida arts and educational community.

I am also pleased to announce the appointment of Brian Schriner, Dean of the College of Architecture + The Arts, to serve as FIU’s Cultural Arts Liaison in addition to his responsibilities as dean.

The Arts is a strategic priority for FIU. To that end, as the Cultural Arts Liaison, Dean Schriner will create a task force to make recommendations on the best role for FIU in the cultural arts locally, nationally and globally. The task force will be comprised of the university’s museum directors as well as select faculty, administrators, board members, and community leaders.

The task force will make recommendations on strategic priorities that align with the identified goals of the FIUBeyondPossible2020 strategic plan. Areas of focus may include enhancing the utilization of existing and future cultural resources to improve second year retention rates, 6-year graduation rates, and seamless transition of graduates to careers. The task force also will work to expand opportunities for funded research and creative activity productivity, and assist in the establishment of a focused, inclusive branding campaign that elevates the arts.

Please join me in thanking Dean Schriner for accepting this position.