

The University of Michigan-Flint

TO: The University of Michigan-Flint Faculty and Staff
FROM: Jack Kay
SUBJECT: Mini-Update from Academic Affairs
DATE: July 6, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Although this Academic Affairs Update is considered a mini-Update, the contents are certainly worthy of note. Much has happened in the last few months and the following are highlights of current events in Academic Affairs.

Thank you Campus Community. The month of July is bittersweet for me. Month end marks my departure from the University of Michigan-Flint and my start at Eastern Michigan University. The decision to leave this great university and community was agonizing for me.

By the end of my on-campus interview for provost at the University of Michigan-Flint I was in love with the campus and community, and immediately saw the wonderful dreams and aspirations of the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community. During my first three months on campus I met in small groups with over eighty percent of the faculty and quickly learned about the great things happening in Flint.

The campus has been fortunate to have so many people who feel that dreaming big is the right thing to do. Nothing that we accomplished together during the past five years would have been possible without the tremendous commitment of so many faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members. I thank you for the personal efforts you made to enable the University of Michigan-Flint to reach new horizons of excellence. I also give my great thanks to Chancellor Emeritus Juan Mestas for selecting me to be provost and for his mentorship, to President Mary Sue Coleman for the opportunity she provided me in becoming a member of the world class University of Michigan leadership team as interim chancellor, and to Chancellor Ruth J. Person for her steadfast support, professionalism, and her efforts to get me to stay.

I was not looking to leave the University of Michigan-Flint and had not sought any other position this past year. People at Eastern came to me and worked hard to get me to agree to apply. I will dearly miss the campus, community, and people at the University of Michigan-Flint. You made me feel so very welcome and you worked hard to make this a great place. Please, keep up the great work. Thank you for all your support.

With deep appreciation,

Jack

Thank You Dean Chandler. I express my great appreciation to Dean Susanne Chandler for her service to the School of Education and Human Services and her contributions to the University of Michigan-Flint as Dean of the School of Education and Human Services. Susanne brought great stability, professionalism, and leadership to the School and led many important initiatives, including accreditation efforts in education and social work, school/community partnerships, leadership on education matters in Lansing, curriculum reform, new program development, and mentorship. Dr. Chandler decided not to seek reappointment so that she could return to faculty status and work on important projects related to both education and social work.

Associate Provost Reappointment. Following an extensive review of executive officers, Graduate Programs Committee, key directors, and select faculty and staff, I am happy to announce that Vahid Lotfi has been reappointed as Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Programs, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014, pending Regents approval this month. Although Vahid will serve as Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, effective July 27, 2009, he will hold his title as Associate Provost during this interim appointment as well.

Since 2001, Dr. Lotfi has served as Associate Provost with the exception of a recent appointment as Interim Provost from March 1, 2007 through August 17, 2009.

As Associate Provost, Dr. Lotfi is responsible for managing Graduate Programs, Information Technology Services, Office of Research, Office of Extended Learning, and the International Center. He also serves as a board member on the Rackham School of Graduate Studies and serves as advisor to the Provost. His tireless leadership in all of these areas has expanded and enhanced the delivery of services to the University, the community, and the students that we serve. His marketing initiatives for graduate programs were singled out for praise and stand as an example for other departments and schools.

I am confident that the transition to Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will again be seamless and leave knowing that Academic Affairs will be in good hands under Vahid's leadership.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Reappointment. I am pleased to announce the reappointment of DJ Trela as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014, pending Regents approval this month. Dean Trela joined the University of Michigan-Flint as Dean of CAS in 1999 making this reappointment his second. He administers the largest unit in the University and works collaboratively with other instructional units, providing leadership for the College within the framework of the mission of the Flint campus.

After an extensive evaluation process including faculty, staff, colleagues, and Deans Advisory Board and after a careful review of his work, Dean Trela has demonstrated that he has earned trust and appreciation of CAS under his leadership and I am confident that he will continue to advance the College and University. I applaud DJ for his many accomplishments during his past term, including leadership in enrollment growth, program development and creation, assessment of student learning, and his great involvement in the community and professional service.

College of Education and Human Services Dean Search. With the departure of Dean Chandler as Dean at the end of June, I met with the staff and faculty of the School of Education and Human Services to solicit their input in the selection process for the next Dean. After careful review and approval from Chancellor Person, Provost Designate Lotfi, and Academic Human Resources, I authorized an internal search for a dean to begin immediately. A screening committee from SEHS was formed and they have reviewed applicants and provided a recommendation to me. I will soon announce the next stage of this process that will involve campus/School interviews within the next several weeks.