



“Our Finest Hour” September 29th, 2020

Timing is Key

Thanks to those who have sent such kind words over the past few days. I appreciate you, as well, and am excited for the future. Again, we will have a very smooth transition, and our many initiatives will continue to grow and expand.

Earlier this morning the Provost’s Office released the interim dean position announcement. Part of the excitement is knowing we have so many talented folk who would do a terrific job in that role. Some have asked me questions about the interim position, but I am referring all those to the Provost. I will not be involved in the search process, only in the transition over the next three or four months.

Had the University chosen to conduct a national search, I would have continued as dean until that process was complete, just as I did during my first term, i.e., 2000 – 2008. I am well aware of interim positions, and I support this approach, because it more often than not, provides stability by having a current University employee on board, bringing understanding and familiarity to the position. I trust this will be demonstrated over the coming months.

Had our CAEP accreditation process not been delayed a full year and a half, I would have made the retirement announcement long ago. Since I turn yet another year older in January, MOSERS retirement begins on the first day of the month, and an interim position is the mode of moving forward, February 1st just makes good sense. I thank the president and provost for supporting this decision.

At the conclusion of my first term, we announced my decision almost a year and half in advance and had a couple of failed national searches for a dean. The provost at the time then turned to a search firm to find a dean in relatively short order. During that period, each time the vice president of student services (at the time) saw me, he would start dragging his left foot and quacking alike a duck. It proved to be an inaccurate depiction.

I look forward to the next few months, as we will begin at least two major projects. Would it were these could wait, but they can’t. Planning must begin in the week or so. I will give “charges” to these task forces, provide leadership to ensure they become operational, and work with whomever the Provost chooses as interim dean to make sure their work continues at the highest level even after February 1, 2021.

Will share what those projects are in my next “Finest Hour.”

Keep Calm & Remember, “It’s a Privilege to Be a Bear.”

David