
Subject: Academic Affairs Update

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Emporia State University

February 9, 2023

Dear Campus Colleagues,

Thank you to all in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who have attended the first two forums for input into what a new, more effective organizational model can look like. This project is the first part of restructuring the Division of Academic Affairs.

Today, I want to share with you three announcements to help in this transition. I am very appreciative for our colleagues who have agreed to add additional duties on a temporary basis to help move us forward.

Dr. Gary Wyatt, currently Associate Provost and Dean of the Honor College, has stepped forward to also serve as Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts + Sciences. This is a key role to support Assistant Deans, Amy Sage Webb-Baza and James Ehlers, as they continue to work with faculty on a new organizational model for LAS.

Morgan Ford Willingham, Associate Professor of Photography, will serve as Associate Chair of the Department of Art. Her assistance ensures that all the duties of the art chair continue as James, the current Chair for the Department of Art, takes on additional duties as Assistant Dean of LAS.

These appointments for Amy, James and Morgan are temporary and timed to their specific projects. I anticipate these additional duties will be completed by the end of June 2023.

Finally, **Dr. Jerald Spotswood**, Dean of the Graduate School and Distance Education, has been promoted to Assistant Provost. Jerry's additional role is based on the projects I have asked him to focus on, which is the strategic evolution of our distance education and online offerings.

Establishing a strategic vision and leading a campus-wide approach is vital to advancing this crucial area.

Jerry also will evaluate the current offerings for the summer semester and plan how we can increase the types and number of classes offered for students.

I ask you to join me in congratulating Gary, Morgan and Jerry.

With Hornet Pride,



R. Brent Thomas, Ph.D.

Provost + Vice President for Academic Affairs

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