

Good afternoon faculty and staff.

I am excited to appoint Dr. Mike Mathias as our next Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

Mike met all the necessary criteria to help lead our Division of Academic and Student Affairs, and I am confident that his long history of leadership at FSU, coupled with his knowledge, skills and relationships will be invaluable assets to the University.

Mike has been a member of the FSU family for 17 years – ten years as a faculty member within the Department of Philosophy and seven in senior-level administrative positions – and brings with him a wealth of experience in higher education. He is also not new to the Office of the Provost having served as Interim Associate Provost and then Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs from 2019-2022.

I know that Mike is dedicated to advancing our mission, growing our enrollment and helping to enhance our strategic plan. He will serve as FSU's chief academic officer overseeing our three newly realigned academic colleges, the library, admissions, student affairs and all academic support services.

I would like to thank the search committee for their diligent work reviewing applications, conducting candidate interviews and hosting open forums on campus. A special thanks go out to Dr. Karen Keller and Dr. Jeff Graham for leading the committee in their charge. I would also like to once again thank Dr. Larry Weill for his dedicated service to FSU for the past year and wish him the very best in retirement.

Please join me in welcoming Mike to his new role. I am excited about the leadership and vision he brings to the Division of Academic and Student Affairs and to FSU.

In closing, I hope that everyone can relax with friends and loved ones during the upcoming July 4th holiday.

With FSU pride,

Darlene Brannigan Smith, PhD