

Dec. 4, 2019

Here is our next vice presidential update, from Dr. Elizabeth Throop, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs:

Good afternoon, colleagues. I'm privileged to be able to share some updates from Academic Affairs to the entire community.

1. A letter of intent for the proposed **new Bachelor of Science in Life-Cycle Facilities Management** was submitted to USM for comments from other institutions. Objections from other USM schools were due to us by Dec. 3; as of this writing, none was received. In January, we will proceed with curriculum development with a team of faculty from the departments involved in planning: Geography, Physics and Engineering, Chemistry, and Business, and with the help of a consultant specializing in construction management.
2. My office continues to review best practices for **course cancellation** to inform future policy. We will be issuing a course cancellation policy in collaboration with the Registrar and Deans' offices to take effect in the next academic year.
3. We are working with Administration & Finance to issue an **RFP for an online catalog** early in the spring 2020 semester.
4. We also continue to work in collaboration with Student Affairs to develop a more formal process for **students to file general academic complaints** per federal law.
5. My office has provided some proposed language to Randy Lowe and the **Low Degree Productivity Program** ad hoc committee. The committee will meet later this week to consider these proposed revisions.
6. I was pleased to recommend **sabbatical leave** for six faculty members who proposed very worthwhile research and service projects – all of which will directly or indirectly benefit student learning at FSU.
7. Today is **the third day of the "12 Days of Assessment"** and I would like to thank all of the faculty engaged in program and student learning assessment – this is really important work that is key to continuous improvement in academics.
8. Candidates for **Dean of the College of Education** are visiting campus this week and next. I am very appreciative of the efforts of **Dr. Jodi Eirich**, chair of the search committee.
9. A **daylong Academic Affairs strategic planning session** is set for Jan. 9. This important work will be facilitated by Gary Durr – a long-time administrator at Allegany College – and will include all of my direct reports as well as your Senate Steering leaders.
10. Mike Mathias and Sara-Beth Bittinger will be representing the Provost's Office at the annual **Middle States conference** next week. This is a significant opportunity to learn about news and trends from the Commission.

11. **Holiday greetings** from the Office of the Provost.

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