

Personnel Changes in Academic Affairs

This message is sent on behalf of Dr. Karan L. Watson, interim provost & executive vice president for academic affairs

We continue to evaluate the operational effectiveness and financial efficiency of the reporting units in academic affairs. Recently announced departures and further review of our central organizational structure have led to the following changes. I believe these changes will ensure that we are meeting our commitment to facilitate quality services in support of the academic enterprise of Texas A&M University.

After six years of service as assistant provost for enrollment at Texas A&M University, Dr. Alice G. Reinartz has announced her intention to retire in January 2011 in order to fulfill family responsibilities. As assistant provost, she guided the evolution of Texas A&M's admissions process through a time of tremendous growth and change.

Additionally, Ambassador Eric Bost, vice president for global initiatives, has announced that he will leave Texas A&M after the first of the year to pursue new career opportunities. Ambassador Bost assumed his present role in January 2009 and has worked to elevate the international awareness of Texas A&M faculty, students and programs. We wish him all the best in his new endeavors.

After reviewing the responsibilities of these positions and related offices, the following restructuring will become effective immediately.

The position of vice provost for academic services, currently held by Dr. J. Martyn Gunn, will become vice provost for academic affairs. In addition to a change in title, Dr. Gunn will become responsible for more of the services that support the curricular experiences of the university, including study abroad, off-campus instruction, and program review and assessment. He will continue to oversee the international centers in Italy, Mexico, and Costa Rica and will assume responsibility for overseeing the international regional program offices—European Union Center, Institute for Pacific Asia and Office of Latin American Programs—all of which will continue to seek opportunities for engaging the university's mission in these regions. The realignment of Dr. Gunn's responsibilities will allow more consistent consideration of globalization in our curricular offerings as well as deepening our commitment to serve the colleges in offering international experiences for students.

The Aggie Honor System Office, the Office of Institutional Assessment and the Office of Measurement and Research Services will continue to report to Dr. Gunn, and he will remain the University Liaison for Accreditation.

Mr. Joseph Pettibon II has been promoted to associate vice president for academic services. In this new role, he will provide leadership and ensure excellent service for all students through the staffing and processes within the offices of Admissions and Records, Scholarships & Financial Aid, Institutional Studies and Planning, and the Career Center. In addition, Curricular Services, International Student Services, and Sponsored Student Programs will report within these units. All of these service functions have been enhanced with the implementation of the COMPASS

student information system and aligning them organizationally will allow for continued improvements. Required reporting to state and federal agencies will be routed through Academic Services.

Finally, as we continue to evaluate the results of the Academic Master Plan process and strategic plans for the university, we have enhanced our commitments to outreach and engagement. Mr. Chad Wootton, associate vice president for external affairs, and his staff will continue to provide support for community and economic development, academic public relations, and partnerships with external stakeholders. Additionally, in close coordination with the colleges and offices across campus, the external affairs staff will support outreach and engagement of the colleges' continuing education efforts, PK-16 initiatives and international outreach activities, assuming oversight of the Office of International Outreach and facilitating the work of the International Advisory Board.

These organizational changes should work to fully integrate our international efforts, which have grown from singularly focused initiatives over the last two decades, into our regular institutional planning and student services processes. Additionally, the alignment of responsibilities for academic services should benefit from existing efficiencies and recurring savings in future budgets.