



June 2018

Dear Colleagues,

As we complete another successful academic year, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on a few of the highlights of the past twelve months and take a look at what's ahead. Thank you for the warm welcome and for making my first year pleasurable and productive. Our faculty, staff, and students are so impressive — this is an extraordinary community.

Due to the good and hard work of those involved, we have made progress in many areas in the academic realm. We received flying colors from our SACSCOC reaccreditation visiting committee with final approval in December. So far so good! Part of that process involved the creation of our new first-year Endeavor Program that will launch this fall — and which is already oversubscribed by incoming students.

Our main focus has been implementing the Strategic Plan. Faculty committees developed exciting initiatives that take advantage of our disciplinary breadth in Creativity-Innovation-Entrepreneurship (CIE) and in Ethics. Another faculty group explored the best way to do a general education curriculum review and produced stellar insights that will guide us through the process as we move forward with our review.

Other highlights from the past academic year include:

- Creating a comprehensive well-being initiative that includes unifying and integrating campus resources, planning a new facility, and developing a variety of related programming.
- In admissions, it was a record year with applications up 18%, improvements across a variety of measures in admitted students, and strong diversity in student backgrounds.
- Faculty have reaped honors, prizes, and grants galore — a Bancroft, NSF and NIH, State Department, DuPont, VFIC, Congressional, Craven, Lincoln, Fulbright, SCHEV, ACS, and more. And how about all those student awards — Fulbrights, Gilmans, and Goldwaters among them!

As we look to the upcoming academic year, there is momentum for further dynamic change. Here's a preview of some of what is ahead of us.

As Dr. Crutcher has made clear with his creation of the President's Committee on Making Excellence Inclusive, thriving and inclusion will continue to be a major focus. Due to large demand from our faculty, we will host not one, but two Inclusive Pedagogy Institutes with the

Associated Colleges of the South in August, and we have a group of faculty members participating in the Inclusive Pedagogy Cohort to reflect on excellent and new ways of teaching that can help advance our inclusion goals.

The ARC of Racial Justice and Race and Racism projects continue to enrich our community. Look for a distinguished panel in the fall discussing the opening of the Wyatt T. Walker papers at the University of Richmond.

A General Education Review Committee has taken the baton to lead us in a discussion of our curriculum and what best serves our students. Given the engagement of our faculty at UR this should be a fascinating conversation.

Prof. Beth Crawford has agreed to lead pilot CIE efforts, informed by a committee of faculty, in the coming year — look for announcements on that when the fall term begins if not sooner.

Dean Peart will continue to steer the ongoing work of the Ethics initiative.

Faculty development has been a frequent topic of discussion during the year. Faculty from across campus have expressed the need for resources dedicated to pedagogy and scholarship development. Towards that end, I have asked Prof. Crystal Hoyt to serve as the Interim Director of a Teaching and Scholarship Initiative. She will lead a committee of faculty that will assess faculty needs, review best practices for providing development support, and recommend a new model for implementation on July 1, 2019. In addition, Professor Hoyt will oversee CTLT during the transition AY2018–19. Kevin Creamer, who has been the Director of CTLT for 10 years, will join the IS leadership team as Manager, IT Communications and Outreach. I appreciate Kevin's leadership of CTLT and am grateful that he will continue to contribute his knowledge to the University community.

To enhance effectiveness and collaboration in related areas in the Academic Division, I am changing a few reporting lines. Susan Breeden, Registrar, will report to Lori Schuyler, VP of Policy and Planning. Mary Tate, Director of the First-Year Seminars, will report to Scott Johnson, Associate Provost for Student Academic Initiatives. Both Bruce Matthews, Assistant AD for Academics, and Rob Andrejewski, Director of Sustainability, will now have their dotted line go to Scott Johnson. I look forward to continuing to work with Susan, Mary, Bruce, and Rob in the important work they do for the University.

I am eager to dig into the next academic year with you and hope to cross paths soon. As always, I welcome your ideas and feedback.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Legro
Executive Vice President and Provost