



January 12, 2022

Dear University Community,

I'm delighted to write to you today to announce the University of Richmond's new dean of the School of Arts & Sciences — Dr. Jennifer Jones Cavanaugh. Dean Cavanaugh is an accomplished administrator and distinguished theater history scholar who currently serves as the dean of the faculty at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. She will join our community on July 1.

Dean Cavanaugh has a stellar record of academic leadership. In addition to serving as the dean of the faculty, she holds the Winifred M. Warden Endowed Chair of Theatre & Dance at Rollins College. Previously, Cavanaugh served for four years as the associate dean of Arts & Sciences. Her areas of teaching and research include gender and performance, theater history, script analysis, and American musical theater, and she has performed and directed for over 25 years.

She is the recipient of numerous teaching, research, and performance awards including the Professing Excellence Teaching Award; the Arthur Vining Davis Award for outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service; and the Best Female Professor Award from the Off Campus Student Association (all at Rollins). While on the faculty at Louisiana State University, she received the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research, the BP Amaco Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Phi Kappa Phi Award for Achievement in the Creative and Performing Arts, the Tiger Athletic Foundation Undergraduate Teaching Award, and the Tiger Athletic Foundation President's Award.

Cavanaugh earned her undergraduate degree in policy studies at Dartmouth College, her MFA in dramaturgy from Brooklyn College, and her Ph.D. in theater history and dramatic criticism at the University of Washington.

A champion of the liberal arts, the students, faculty, staff, and administrators who met with her were impressed by her depth of experience and passion for undergraduate education. She has a long history of being a strong proponent of faculty development and shared governance; has prioritized the recruitment, hiring, and retention of an outstanding diverse faculty; and has advanced academic community — all things that echo our own institutional priorities.

The search attracted a strong field of applicants, and Dean Cavanaugh stood out in a rigorous interview process. Many thanks to the dozens of faculty, staff, students, and alumni who met with the dean candidates and provided useful feedback. I am especially grateful to co-chair of the search Laura Browder, Tyler and Alice Haynes Professor of American Studies, for her leadership and judgment and for the dedicated work by the thoughtful members of the committee, including Taylor Arnold, associate professor of computer science; Bert Ashe, professor of English and Jabez

Bostwick Chair; Makayla Callender, W'22, chemistry and healthcare studies; Jessica Chan, associate professor of languages, literature, and culture; Raphael de Sa, professor of biology and Clarence E. Denoon Jr. Chair in Natural Sciences; Margaret Dorsey, professor of anthropology; Pippa Holloway, Douglas Southall Freeman Distinguished Professor of History; Robin Mundle, W'85, administrative coordinator, rhetoric and communication studies; Austin Neuhoff, R' 91, president, Austin Neuhoff Homes, and trustee; Mickey Quiñones, dean, Robins School of Business; and Michelle Wamsley, assistant vice president, academic advancement and strategic priorities. I would also like to convey my appreciation to Gina Flanagan for her outstanding administrative support throughout the search process.

We began our national search for a new A&S dean this summer after former A&S Dean Patrice Rankine stepped down. Daniel Palazzolo, associate dean in the School of Arts & Sciences and professor of political science, has been serving as interim dean. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Dan's ongoing work and leadership in overseeing UR's largest school.

Dr. Cavanaugh is very excited to join A&S and the University in July. Please do not hesitate to reach out and welcome her to the UR community.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Legro

Executive Vice President and Provost