

Provost's Perspective

December 2022

Message from Jeff

With the end of the semester just ahead, I want to pause and acknowledge the commitment of faculty and staff to our students and their learning and growth – which shows up in so many different ways.

One in particular deserves a special shout out. Over the past five years, through challenging circumstances, over thirty faculty served across four different committees to reimagine a [general education curriculum](#) that will engage students in new and relevant modes of inquiry across all years of their time at Richmond. These committees were remarkable and benefitted greatly from the stalwart leadership of Laura Runyen-Janecky, Eugene Wu, Jennifer Cable, Tim Hamilton, Tracy Roof, and Saif Mehkari, as well as the continuous support of Libby Gruner, Sydney Watts and Carol Parish.

Countless other members of our community attended presentations, participated in forums, and submitted comments. It was difficult and historic work. The project of course is not done. Much remains ahead before students embark in the “Web of Inquiry,” but thanks to the work of many there is now a clear path ahead, with Joanna Love serving as the guide, to a new gen ed curriculum.

Please know the [Faculty Hub](#) offers resources, programming, and one-on-one consultations to support faculty developing new courses, scholarship and creative activity, inclusive teaching, and [difficult conversations in the classroom](#).

The Office of the Provost is also available to [provide support](#). We have a number of new colleagues in the office that I am excited to introduce below.

Good luck with the grading and December work.

Take care,



Bringing Community to the Classroom for Sixty Years!

SPCS is celebrating its [60th Anniversary](#). University College (now SPCS) opened its doors to students for the first time on the University's pre-1914 campus in downtown Richmond in September 17, 1962.

UR Awarded \$625,000 HHMI Grant

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute has awarded the University of Richmond a \$625,000 grant that will support efforts to create an inclusive experience for students and enhance student belonging.

The interdisciplinary team of UR faculty working on this project include:

- Jon Dattelbaum
- Kelling Donald
- Angie Hilliker
- Kathy Hoke
- Shannon Jones
- Karen Kochel
- Carol Parish
- Dan Pierce
- Isaac Skromne

Part of this grant will also fund a study led by faculty in UR's psychology department, including:

- Karen Kochel
- Janelle Peifer
- Kristjen Lundberg

Meet the Provost Office Team

This summer *Brittany Taylor Schaal* joined us as the Director of Operations. She brings over a decade of institutional knowledge with her from her previous service as the Director of Emergency Management.

Janet Groessler is the newest member of the team serving as the Executive Assistant. She comes to the University from Virginia Housing with a great deal of executive level administrative experience.

Rose Nicholson rejoined the UR community as the Project Specialist, providing administrative support for Linda and Carol. She coordinates event planning including departmental and school external reviews and other faculty development related programs.

Linda Boland, Associate Provost for Faculty, and *Carol Parish*, Associate Provost for Academic Integration continue their great service.

You can learn more about them on the recently redesigned [Provost Website](#).

Did you know?

There are no bells in the Boatwright bell tower.



International Week

UR's annual celebration of [International Education Week](#) took place November 14-18, focusing on Aotearoa New Zealand. Nearly 20 faculty taught about New Zealand in their classes this semester, many of whom also were among the 112 presenters at the Fair on Nov. 16. Topics ranging from Allbirds to BodyPump to sustainable raising of sheep drew the attention of New Zealand's Ambassador to the United States, who visited UR accompanied by Amy Rutherford, a former UR exchange student. UR partner University Otago sent two faculty in Biology and Cinema, and the Office of [Sustainability](#) once again produced a brilliant Ecochallenge for 263 participants across 32 teams.

The Offices of the Provost and President joined forces on a team. While we did not win (11th overall), our team impact included:

- 570 minutes of additional sleep;
- 405 minutes spent learning; and
- 505 minutes spent outdoors.



December Grade Deadlines

When grades are submitted late, that can

- Delay the determination of a student's academic standing, therefore delaying notification to students of their status;
- Affect a student's financial aid;
- Impact auditing and conferring degree candidates; and
- Affect NCAA eligibility for student-athletes.

All grades are due by 9 a.m.

Dec. 12 for MBA, Dec. 15 for SPCS, & Dec. 16 for ABJ