



September 9, 2022

Good Morning Colleagues,

It has been terrific to see the energy on campus in these opening weeks of the semester. It was also wonderful to gather with many of you last Friday at our first University Faculty Meeting of the academic year. I write today to check in and share briefly some of the academic priorities on the horizon for this coming academic year.

To look ahead is not to overlook the challenges and hardships of the past two years and their lingering effects. Throughout you have continued to provide exceptional instruction and/or support for our students and one another — that commitment to and compassion for students and the entire community is such an important part of what makes UR extraordinary. Thank you for your ongoing efforts. It takes a lot of energy to do what you do — please be intentional in also tending to your own well-being. And please know that we will continue to look for ways to support you in all your efforts.

Academic Priorities for 2022–23

This year will feature planning and doing.

In terms of planning, we have many opportunities to continue to strengthen our community, as outlined in President Hallock's [recent message](#). In the academic space, this will begin by channeling our best thinking about how we can support faculty in meeting our mission as well as considering substantive subject areas to develop. We will evaluate how we are positioned in terms of our faculty — its size, the percentage that is tenure track, the distribution of faculty across fields, etc. — and consider what our faculty should look like going forward. That work inevitably invites thinking about where there is demand or opportunity for the University to do something distinctive in terms of subjects or programs within and across schools. Those will all be topics of conversations in schools, in the Planning & Priorities Committee, and with the President. Please do not hesitate to share your ideas with your Dean, me, or the President or submit them on the [Planning webpage](#) where you will find additional information.

In terms of doing — i.e., efforts to advance current ideas — the Office of the Provost will focus on:

- Identifying and building out support for faculty research;
- Supporting implementation of the new general education curriculum;
- Continuing exceptional hiring;

- Exploring opportunities to improve student success;
- Advancing belonging throughout academic affairs;
- Continuing development of Data Analytics/Data Science; Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship; and other program initiatives that work across the schools; and
- Supporting transitions in A&S leadership and the staff in the Provost's Office and setting up the next provost for a great launch.

It should be an exciting semester. I look forward to seeing you on campus and working with you this academic year.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Best regards,

Jeff