



January 10, 2023

Good Afternoon Colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed winter break and are having a good new year so far. I write to briefly highlight work on a few of the academic priorities I shared in the [fall semester](#).

As you may recall, a survey was administered in September 2022 to understand better the needs of faculty related to scholarship. The results have identified current forms of, as well as opportunities to increase, support for faculty research and creative expression. We look forward to sharing a full report later this week and I hope you will see that the results have already been guiding our efforts.

Faculty and staff remain hard at work recruiting new outstanding colleagues. Last year's searches produced a [new cohort of faculty](#) who began in the fall. However, we are just now welcoming one new faculty member, [Dr. Bo Yun Park](#), Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies and Sociology, who began teaching this week.

Like society as a whole, the use of data and computing is increasing on our campus. So many faculty and students are using Spiderweb, the large web server associated with UR's [high-performance computing environment](#), that we needed a memory upgrade. Thanks to George Flanagin, and the Data Center's LeVonne Johnson, that upgrade was completed over winter break. To date, more than 370 students and faculty have accounts on Spiderweb and Spydur.

There are many opportunities to connect with one another and engage in university life. The [Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration](#) events over the next two weeks look terrific. Many thanks to colleagues who served on the cross-campus [committee](#) to put together these events. I would also like to remind you that January 25-26, we will host a [mindfulness program](#) led by the founders of the [Holistic Life Foundation](#). Please consider joining one or more of these events.

Finally, kudos to our faculty and instructional staff for using our [Dining with Students program](#). Last semester, more than 60 people took this opportunity to share a meal with their students. This willingness to continually and meaningfully engage with our students exemplifies why UR is remarkable.

Best wishes for the spring semester!

Take care,

Jeff