



FROM THE PROVOST

September 17, 2021

Good afternoon, Colleagues,

I am pleased to report progress on work announced last week that will foster additional opportunities for members of the OSU administration and faculty to actively collaborate on initiatives to address pandemic-related concerns in Fall 2021 and to create a comprehensive strategy for Spring 2022 and beyond. Provided below are just a few updates.

Pandemic/Endemic Planning Task Force: Co-Chairs, Drs. Stephen Clarke and Mindy McCann, have worked closely with my office, college governance groups, and others to consider nominations and finalize representation for this group. An initial meeting was held yesterday morning and the group set an aggressive timeline for reporting on issues identified and potential resolutions. Representatives working with Drs. Clarke and McCann include:

- Sergio Abit, Associate Professor, Plant and Soil Sciences, Ferguson College of Agriculture
- Clint Aichele, Associate Professor, Chemical Engineering, College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology
- Christie Hawkins, Associate Vice President and Director, Institutional Research and Analytics
- Natasa Kaurin-Karaca, Clinical Associate Professor, Music, College of Arts and Sciences
- James Knapp, Professor, Geology, College of Arts and Sciences
- Amy Martindale, Assistant Dean, Academic Services, College of Arts and Sciences
- Amanda Morris, Professor, Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences, OSU-Tulsa
- Chris Ormsbee, Associate Provost and Director, Institute for Teaching and Learning Excellence
- Rita Peaster, University Registrar, Division of Academic Affairs
- Mary Jo Self, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership, College of Education and Human Sciences
- Jim Smay, Professor, Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology, OSU-Tulsa
- Sheri Vasinda, Associate Professor, Teaching, Learning, and Educational Sciences, College of Education and Human Sciences
- Lex Smith-Washington, Associate Professor, Management, Spears School of Business
- TBD, Graduate and Professional Student Government Association

OSU Faculty Council Initiatives: As announced last week, Dr. Pamela Lovern and officers of the Faculty Council are actively expanding opportunities for faculty to engage in timely issues facing our campus community through distribution of a survey and formation of two committees.

- The survey “Faculty Viewpoints and Experiences Related to COVID-19” was distributed yesterday, and Faculty Council strongly encourages all faculty to participate. The views of the faculty will be most accurately represented if a large number of faculty complete the survey. Your input is important, whether your views are positive, negative, or

neutral. The survey will close at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, Sept 22, so please set aside time to submit your comments. Questions should be addressed to the OSU Faculty Council officers:

Pamela Lovern, Chair: pamela.lovern@okstate.edu

Ki Cole, Vice Chair: ki.cole@okstate.edu

Karen Neurohr, Secretary: karen.neurohr@okstate.edu

Gina Peek, Past Chair: gina.peek@okstate.edu

- Faculty Council officers continue their discussions on the formation of two additional advisory groups – a larger task force to facilitate an open dialogue among faculty to discuss COVID-19 related concerns and a new Faculty Council special committee. Please watch for an announcement early next week that will include information on nomination procedures.
 - Dr. Lovern and I will be working together to identify a chair for the larger task force mentioned above. If you are interested in serving in this role, please submit a brief statement to provost@okstate.edu by Monday, Sept 27.

In closing and as a reminder, the Fall General Faculty meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, Sept 28, beginning at 3:00 PM and will feature President Shrum as the speaker. The event will be held in-person at the recital hall of the McKnight Center, and a virtual option also will be available. In addition to President Shrum's comments, we anticipate providing updates from the Pandemic/Endemic Planning Task Force and other advisory groups. If you haven't already, please be sure to reserve this time on your calendar and plan to attend.

Thank you for supporting our students and for providing feedback on pandemic and teaching issues as we continue to work together to create the best possible environment on campus.

Best,

Jeanette

Jeanette M. Mendez
Interim Provost and Senior Vice President