



Marywood University

The President's Memo - #12

March 30, 2020

Dear Marywood Community,

Most likely it will be a while before we can settle into a more focused and balanced routine in the new world in which we find ourselves. My thoughts go out to all of you all of the time and no matter your role in our community, I pray you are experiencing some peace in the midst of uncertainty.

Dean Searches

At this time, I would like to announce some good news that points to a more hopeful time. You will recall that just before our campus became completely physically closed, we had the opportunity to go through the process of interviewing and ultimately hiring two deans who will assume their roles in our academic community beginning on July 1, 2020. They will be with us, either in person or virtually, but nonetheless, they will join us in fulfilling our academic mission here at Marywood. Therefore, I ask you to please welcome our new Deans:

Lori Swanchak, PhD, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Lori is no stranger to Marywood. She has served at the Interim Dean of the College of Health and Human Services for the last two years and brings this experience to the position. During her interim experience, Lori provided strategic leadership to the College. Among other things, she was responsible for academic programming, fiscal accountability, personnel decisions, the evaluation and hiring of faculty, and the development and maintenance of accreditation documents for the Health Services and Allied Health Sciences Programs. Lori has been at Marywood in various capacities for 18 years.

Jeffrey Johnson, D.M.D, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Jeffrey will come to us from the University of Bridgeport, CT, where he is the Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and Professor of Music. Jeffrey has been at the U of B for 21 years and

has served in many capacities. Currently, The U of B CAS houses 54 fulltime faculty and 24 administrative and support staff. There are two schools within the College and in total it has 21 undergraduate majors and 6 graduate programs.

I wish to thank the members of the two search committees who were focused, professional, and objective in their analyses of the candidates who surfaced from tens of applicants in both searches. I am also appreciative of everyone from the community who took the time to attend campus meetings for the seven candidates in all. I carefully studied your responses and weighed them against the input from the committees, and other feedback from administrators and staff. In both instances, I followed the preponderance of information for both searches and made decisions totally consistent with your feedback.

Core Curriculum

Although we are continuing most of our operations in a positive and productive way, we need to re-evaluate some of what was planned in light of what we can do with limited presence on campus and curtailed resources. Therefore, at the recommendation of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and with the unanimous agreement and support of the UGCCC, the decision has been made to leave the current core curriculum in place and delay the implementation of the new core until fall 2021. In the interim, a Core Director will be hired to begin working in the summer 2020, and the subcommittees of UGCCC will continue to work on the development of their respective charges. Pilots will continue to run and be evaluated, and faculty will join Learning Communities and be trained in anticipation of the F21 rollout. The timeline for hiring four or more new instructors of practice to support implementation of the core will be assessed in F20. We thank all of you who have been involved in the work so far, and we are grateful for your continued participation as we work toward completion of the New Core.

Cor Mariae and Years of Service

As you know, we were joyfully anticipating the induction of six of our colleagues into the order *Cor Mariae pro Fide et Cultura* and also the celebration of several loyal colleagues and co-workers who were scheduled for their **Years Of Service** community recognition. Surely, we will not forget to celebrate these employees at a future time with their medals, pins, and gifts. However, where monetary gifts were a part of the Years of Service awards, those monetary gifts will be included along with mid-April salaries.

I will continue to update you frequently about important issues on campus. We are trying to arrive at a time and place when the operations we are experiencing are running even more smoothly and have assumed a “temporarily new normal.” I am grateful to everyone who has stepped up “without missing a beat” in order

to serve our students not only academically but in every possible way. I might venture a guess that this reality is still sinking into our psyches. Please do what you can to take care of yourselves and stay healthy as we work together toward reaching a positive and meaningful outcome to a startling new life experience.

With gratitude and sincere best wishes,

Sister Mary