UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Office of the Provost

Dear faculty colleagues,

With the fall term upon us and our law school semester well underway, we have another opportunity to come together as we share and produce knowledge, and create an inclusive academic experience in our classrooms, labs, libraries, and studios at the University of Oregon.

I am pleased to be working with our new president, Karl Scholz, and our deans, vice presidents, and vice provosts as the university seeks to continually improve our support for our students' education and experience, our creation of knowledge, and our positive impact on our state and world.

Faculty Success

This year the Office of the Provost remains focused on faculty success. We continue to work to foster a culture of mentorship, attract and retain diverse faculty members, close student equity gaps, recognize achievements, and support UO faculty. Our goal is to further enhance and increase the resources, services, and opportunities that we offer to support your teaching, research, and service.

To help encourage and facilitate faculty success, as well as success across our university community, the Office of the Provost is reimagining mentorship for the University of Oregon. This is a campus-wide collaboration with the goal of providing every person—faculty, staff, and students—with information, training, opportunities, and tools to form their own high-quality mentorship networks, starting with several keynote events beginning October 2. I encourage you to take advantage of this new resource and share it with your colleagues and students.

Academic Leadership

This fall, we plan to launch two national searches for permanent deans in the Clark Honors College and in the Lundquist College of Business. We will engage with stakeholders including each of the college's faculty and staff and the University Senate. We will share additional information about the search process, committee, and timeline in the coming months.

I am grateful to Carol Stabile, who has served as the honors college interim dean since 2020, and to Bruce Blonigen, who is serving as the business college dean on a two-year appointment. Their leadership continues to propel these colleges forward.

Bargaining

We begin this term as contract negotiations between the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF) and the University of Oregon move into mediation.

University leadership is committed to reaching agreement with the GTFF on a contract that positions both graduate student employees and all members of the university for long-term success. Our core principles of appreciation, creative problem solving, and responsible financial stewardship, among others, are guiding negotiations and decisions as we seek a new contract with our graduate employees.

University leadership recognizes the process and outcome of GTFF bargaining have a unique impact on you as faculty, and you may feel uncertain about what lies ahead. I encourage you to stay informed. The latest information on negotiations and proposals is available on the HR website. This is the current status:

- The bargaining teams have made progress in direct negotiation this past spring and summer. Multiple rounds of proposals have been generated and discussed by both sides. Most recently, the university bargaining team proposed an additional salary offer ahead of mediation that provides across-the-board increases and salary minimum increases for graduate student employees all three years of the contract.
- Increasing the salary offer acknowledges that compensation is a critical issue in this bargaining cycle. The intent is to show commitment to good faith bargaining and desire to reach agreement with the GTFF.
- Mediation with the GTFF begins October 4. This is the typical next step following direct bargaining. Mediation has proven to be a valuable tool, and we are hopeful that a third-party mediator can initiate new conversations and advance the negotiation process.

Academic Continuity

Bargaining in good faith is one part of our responsibility. We also have an obligation to our students to ensure they can continue their studies to the greatest extent possible in the face of any disruption. University and academic leaders expect to maintain our teaching and research operations in order to fulfill that obligation.

The university established continuity guidelines in the academic continuity policy approved by the University Senate in 2019, with additional guidance developed by the Office of the Provost. We rely on these guidelines to maintain instruction and ensure that final grades are submitted during any disruption, as we did during the pandemic. We will rely on them to fulfill our responsibility to maintain academic continuity if typical operations are disrupted.

You can expect to hear more from the deans of your school or college and from your department head about continuity planning, as necessary and as bargaining continues. Again, we value and appreciate graduate student employees. We remain hopeful that by engaging in the mediation process together, the UO bargaining team will reach agreement with the GTFF.

On-going Faculty Success Information

The Office of the Provost will continue to share regular updates like the one emailed this week about the resources, programs, academic policy reminders, and opportunities available to faculty. Be on the lookout twice a month for resource information in the Faculty Success newsletter. Each month you will receive detailed information about news and opportunities, resources, celebration of faculty voices and achievements, and ways to connect and offer feedback. You will also receive an additional newsletter each month with summarized, essential news in a more succinct format. Newsletters are sent to your UO email address and posted on the provost website.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our students and mission. I wish you a wonderful fall term.

Sincerely,

Janet Woodruff-Borden
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President

1258 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1258
P: 541-346-3186 | F: 541-346-2023

You are being sent this message based on your affiliation with the University of Oregon.

Share this email:



This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book.
Unsubscribe

Having trouble viewing this email? View this email online.

Subscribe to our email list.