

Dear Colleagues,

I write to inform you of updates within the provost's team and academic leadership and to provide updates on our ongoing searches.

Vice provost for strategic enrollment management (SEM)

Please join me in congratulating April Crabtree on her appointment as the vice provost for strategic enrollment management (SEM). April has been serving as the interim vice provost of SEM since August, leading undergraduate recruitment and admission, student financial services, enrollment data services and operations, enrollment communications, graduate enrollment support, and the university registrar's office. During this time she has overseen a 5 percent rise in undergraduate applications, the distribution of \$9.5 million in student aid through the American Rescue Plan (HEERF III), the launch of the Transfer Credit Evaluator to support transfer enrollment growth, the integration of the international and domestic admission teams, and the development of USF's first integrated strategic enrollment plan. She has sought innovative, student-centered, mission-aligned, and team-oriented solutions to improve the USF experience for prospective students, SEM team members, and other campus stakeholders.

April joined USF in 2015 and previously served as the director of undergraduate admission and recruitment and as assistant vice provost for undergraduate admission. She has served in various leadership roles in international, regional, and state consortia over the past 14 years and has presented internationally and nationally on issues in higher education. Her work has centered on access for underserved students, creating equitable and transparent admission processes for first-year and transfer students, and supporting international students as they explore universities in the United States.

Under her leadership, USF received the highest-ever number of applications in this admissions cycle. Those of you who participated in Destination USF recently saw firsthand the excitement, energy, and incredibly talented and diverse students that April and the SEM team are bringing to our campuses.

Update on vice provost searches

We continue to make progress on our searches for the **vice president for budget, planning, and strategic analysis** and the **vice provost for equity, inclusion, and faculty excellence**. I am very grateful to the **chairs and members** serving on those search committees and to the many members of our community who have participated in listening sessions to help shape the leadership profiles for these positions. Please share these opportunities with your networks or nominate candidates by contacting our external search consultant Witt Kieffer, at USF-ViceProvost@wittkieffer.com and USF-VPEIF@wittkieffer.com, respectively.

I will continue to keep you updated on the development of our academic affairs team. It's critical that we have the expertise and staffing to implement our strategic plan, accelerate the university's path to fiscal thriving, and continue to advance our vision of inclusive excellence and global social justice.

Gratitude, invitation to participate, and key dates

I am grateful for the insights that many of you have shared in emails, walks, or in my office hours in my first academic year and for the exciting opportunities we have to co-design USF's future direction. I hope you will join one of the following events to help us celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty, librarians, and staff, honor the work of strategic planning, and recognize the important work ahead in making USF the thriving university and equitable, inclusive community we aspire to be.

- Tuesday, April 26, 12–1:30 p.m.: Please join us for the **Provost's end-of-year gratitude party and Strategic Plan implementation kickoff** in Privett Plaza to celebrate everyone's contributions to the success and momentum of our collective enterprise this year, including those who were engaged in creating USF's 2027 Strategic Plan and those who will be involved in its implementation. Light food and refreshments will be served. Please **RSVP now »**
- Tuesday, April 26, 3:30–4:30 p.m.: **President's Town Hall** in McLaren 250. **Please join Fr. Fitzgerald** for the first in-person town hall in two years. **Please register and submit questions »**
- Thursday, April 28, 12–1 p.m.: **Conversation with Provost Chinyere**: How can we advance disability justice for faculty, librarians, and staff as part of our efforts to make USF an equitable and extraordinary place to work? **Please register**. We will provide ASL (VRI) interpretation and CART captioning provided by an expert. If you have any access requirements you would like us to accommodate, please email **Nathan Tregarvan** by April 21.
- Monday, May 2, 4–5:45 p.m.: **Tenure & Promotion congratulatory reception** in Tarantino Plaza for faculty tenured and/or promoted in 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022. Please RSVP to **Nathan Tregarvan**.

Please also note the following opportunities:

- **By April 20**: Self-nominate or nominate a colleague to serve on the **Strategic Plan Advisory Council** or one of the initial **Strategic Plan working groups**.
- **By April 21**: Apply for spring/summer 2022 funding for mini-grants and mini-writing retreats available to full-time faculty. CRASE is providing mini-grants through support from the Provost Fund for Equity, Inclusion, and Faculty Excellence to kickstart or advance progress on research fieldwork, lab work, or other creative work. Contact crase@usfca.edu for more information on how to apply.
- **By April 27**: Submit your **nomination or self-nomination** to serve on the search committee for the new Associate Vice Provost for Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI).

As we come to the end of a very busy semester, I can't imagine a better moment to pause, reflect, and honor the essential work at USF and the people who do that work. I'm so grateful for the time, thought, and care that you have dedicated to shaping USF's future and to supporting our students. It was wonderful earlier this month to welcome back 1,400 alumni from the classes of 2020 and 2021 to celebrate commencement in person. The graduates' **words of thanks** are the best reminder that the education that you play a role in providing and supporting transforms lives and contributes to creating a more humane, sustainable, and just world.

Warmly,



Chinyere Oparah
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

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