



# OFFICE *of the* PROVOST

## Mid-Semester Update on Academic Affairs

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Dear Team,

I hope this message finds you well! It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the semester. I'd like to take a moment to update you on our progress in the Division of Academic Affairs and share our goals for the upcoming year.

First, I'm excited that Drs. Denise Soares and Jerry Lin will be joining us in January 2025 to lead the School of Education and Research Administration and Engagement respectively. The leadership of these two positions is essential to advancing the university's mission and ensuring its overall success.

With all department bylaw revisions completed last spring, we are well-prepared for Post-Tenure Review and Instructor, Lecturer, and Research Associate promotion this year, and the updated university guidelines for tenure and promotions have been posted. We have over 50 faculty applying for tenure and/or promotion this year.

We are currently implementing the Course Leaf CLSS scheduling software for a Spring 2025 start. This software will allow us to streamline scheduling processes and centralize functions within the colleges.

This year promises to be an active hiring season, with over 50 faculty positions to fill. Additionally, we've achieved a record enrollment of 14,800 students this fall--an incredible accomplishment!

Earlier this summer, I outlined our focus on developing annual goals that prioritize student success, enrollment (both undergraduate and graduate), new programs, hiring, and research. Additionally, we emphasized operational efficiency by identifying processes to automate and workflows to streamline. During the Fall Faculty Forum, I shared our year one goals ([see here](#)) and the measures we'll use to evaluate progress. Specifically, the measures are (and please note that these are not immediate):

- A. A sustained Performance Based Funding metric score of 90
- B. 16,000 student enrollment
- C. 600 full-time faculty
- D. \$30M in external research expenditures

October 10, 2024

While A-D are aspirational (they really are a vision for Academic Affairs), they guide our direction. The Provost's Office, in collaboration with the colleges and other offices, will establish specific annual goals to help us move toward A-D. Importantly, as we pursue these targets, we will optimize our existing resources and seek out opportunities for new resources.

First, I want to emphasize the rationale behind these targets. Each is ambitious yet attainable. In fact, A-D were chosen because they are reachable with sustained commitment. Furthermore, UWF's mission is to serve the higher education needs of our growing region, and as our region expands, so must we. So, A-D is representative of the growth we're experiencing in our region. Additionally, as a cultural and research hub for northwest Florida, UWF must continue to grow in these areas too.

Second, I want to recognize that these targets represent revenue for the university. Increasing enrollment translates to more tuition and fees, helping maintain a healthy budget that supports and invests in the division's faculty and staff as well as teaching, research, and service initiatives. Similarly, boosting research expenditures will allow us to expand our research impact. Even our metric score, while to a lesser extent, contributes to revenue by aiding in faculty recruitment and retention. Finally, as we increase our faculty and staff numbers, we'll be better equipped to manage growing enrollment, enhance student success, and elevate our research efforts.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our shared vision and mission. Together, we can achieve these goals and make a significant impact on our community. Lastly, many thanks for submitting your early warning reports -- this is important to our student success initiatives.

Best regards,

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October 10, 2024