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Fellow Faculty and staff, I report to you today on four items:

1. In an executive personnel action, I recently accepted the resignation of Mr. Marc Archambault who had been serving for the last 22 months as the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations. While Marc has resigned his university duties, he will continue to serve as the executive officer of the WKU Foundation through December 2017, unless he chooses to step aside from those administrative duties before then. Mr. John Paul Blair, who has long served as the lead development officer for WKU, has agreed to serve as interim Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations and, therefore, will lead the Alumni Relations and Development staffs for the foreseeable future. President-Elect Caboni will work with John Paul for a period of time of his choosing before determining whether to make the interim title permanent or begin a search.

I want to thank Marc Archambault for his knowledge and service to WKU. I also encourage you to work closely with John Paul as we place greater importance on private support in the financial profile of WKU.

2. One of the omissions in our university policies has been a clear policy and operating procedure related to video surveillance systems across our campus. The Administrative Council has recently approved the attached Policy and Procedures Document related to video surveillance systems. This is an increasingly important safety and security dynamic for the campus. We currently have 811 surveillance cameras positioned throughout our campus, yet many of our spaces are rightfully private spaces where no video surveillance occurs. For the safety and security of all employees, it is important that every member of our faculty and staff continue to understand that safety very much remains an individual responsibility. We will always do our best to try to keep the campus safe for all who work, study, and visit here, but our individual decisions and actions are still the most important deterrent to unsafe or unwelcoming behavior. I believe it is important that all employees understand our current video surveillance policies and procedures.
3. Just before the end of the spring semester, I was pleased to authorize the recommendations of Provost Lee, Dean Larry Snyder of the Potter College of Arts and Letters, and Dr. Rob Hale, the Head of the English Department, to make Professor Mary Ellen Miller the official WKU Poet Laureate. Mary Ellen has been a member of our faculty in the English Department for some 53 years. Poetry is her passion. No one at WKU has written, taught, and performed in this regard more or better than Mary Ellen Miller. Please join me in extending to Mary Ellen Miller a hearty congratulations on her appointment as WKU Poet Laureate.
4. I am also pleased to announce that I have appointed Dr. David Lee, our Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, as the official University Historian. This is a rare appointment at this or most universities. David Lee, however, has been an important part of much of our University's recent history. He is a historian by training, and History is his passion. When David chooses to complete his current duties as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, he will transition to his duties as University Historian. At that point, one of his primary tasks will be that of updating the official history of WKU,

which has not been pursued since 1986. Dr. Lowell Harrison, also a Professor of History at WKU, wrote the last definitive history of WKU which chronicled our history from 1906 through 1986. I am pleased that David has accepted this role and will pursue this important project in the years ahead. Please join me in congratulating David Lee, not only on his 40 years of service to WKU, but the service he will render in the future as our official University Historian.

Thank you.

Gary A. Ransdell

Attachment



Gary A. Ransdell
President | Office of the President
Western Kentucky University