

## **MSU Campus Community:**

With the announcement by Provost Steven Ralston last fall of his intentions to leave Morehead State University on June 30, 2018, MSU initiated a national search for his replacement. Over the course of the past five months, a Provost Screening Committee did an exceptional job and provided due diligence in screening the large pool of quality candidates that we received – over 40 applicants. The committee also conducted several preliminary first round interviews.

However, at our last Provost Screening Committee meeting the group and I discussed the current uncertainty in Kentucky with regard to state budgets and the pending and equally uncertain pension situation. During the course of that discussion, both the screening committee members and I felt it would be best at this time to pause the search process until some of these budget and pension uncertainties can be resolved, or at least we know what changes might occur going forward from the state.

Therefore, I wanted to relay that we are continuing to pause on the Provost search, and are envisioning restarting a national search during the next academic year after we get through some of the Commonwealth's uncertainty.

In recent conversations with Dr. Ralston, I asked him to consider continuing on another year as Provost; however, he has indicated his desire to depart June 30 as he originally planned last fall.

Therefore, after conversation with several campus leaders, I have extended an invitation to Dr. Bob Albert to serve as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Albert will serve for a one year duration beginning July 1, 2018. Over the course of the next few months, Dr. Ralston and Dr. Albert will be working closely together in order to provide for a transition that assists our campus and provides leadership in academic affairs. I would like to thank Bob for his willingness to serve in this interim capacity.

Additionally, I wanted to relay that while Dr. Albert serves in the interim period as Provost, that Dr. Greg Russell will serve as Interim Dean of the College of Business and Technology. Thank you to Greg for his willingness to do so.

As most of you are aware, we are in precarious time in the Commonwealth and in higher education. Never before have we seen state budget reductions, skyrocketing

pension costs, pension system structural changes, and a move to performance funding – all in a 12-15 month period of time.

I continue to have faith that we have good people at Morehead State University and that there is nothing that we cannot accomplish if we all work together to get through this.

Many thanks to everyone,

Jay Morgan  
President