

Announcement of New Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Over the past few months we have had a Screening Committee working to narrow down applicants in our search for a new Provost. This position was slated to replace Dr. Bob Albert who has plans to retire from MSU this summer. Please join me in thanking Bob for his many years of service to MSU, both as a Dean and as our Provost for the past few years. Bob has done a very good job and we will honor him later this spring.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Provost Screening Committee who worked diligently during the process, as well as many on our campus who attended the various forums and sessions during the final on-campus phase of candidate selection.

Over the past week or two we have been working to solidify the finalist for the position, with three finalists visiting our campus for open forums. As we worked towards the narrowing of a final candidate we were, unfortunately, unable to secure our preferred finalist. Therefore, after some consultation with a number of people in academic affairs, including that of the Screening Committee, we will be marking this a failed search.

As we look at the next year or two for our campus, we are scheduled to undergo a university-wide reaccreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) next year, a state-wide curriculum review with Gray and Associates that is on-going at present, continuation of performance funding, performance indicators set for us, and a variety of other initiatives.

Thus, after some consultation with various groups, including the Screening Committee, and in order to move our campus forward, we will be asking Dr. Greg Russell to serve as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs effective July 1, 2020. Dr. Russell currently serves as the Dean of the Smith College of Business and Technology and will work with Dr. Albert over the next few months to assure as smooth a transition this summer as possible. Dr. Russell is a familiar face on campus and will be serving a one year term as Provost, with an option for some additional time if needed, which will likely lead him into retirement soon thereafter.

Dr. Russell holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and an M.B.A. from the University of Kentucky, as well as a Ph.D. in Operations Management from the University of South Carolina. He has been at MSU for 16 years, with former service as Department Chair for 5 years, Associate Dean for 9 years, and presently as Dean for the past 2 years. He was also a faculty member at Georgia Southern University for 12 years.

Additionally, Dr. Russell provided excellent leadership as Chair of the Academic Affairs section of our current University Strategic Plan that was developed two years ago.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Russell.

Thank you,

Jay Morgan
President