

## Provost Prelock Faculty Senate Report

August 31, 2026

### **Leadership Updates**

- Cindy Rishel was appointed Interim Dean of the College of Nursing on June 10, 2026. Congratulations Senator Rishel.
- Kim Ogden was appointed Interim Dean of the College of Engineering on July 1, 2026.
- Chris Finch began his appointment as Dean of the R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy on August 1, 2026. Thank you to Julie Funk who chaired the search and the faculty and staff who fully participated in the search process
- George Smith began his appointment as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on August 1, 2026. Thank you to past faculty senate secretary Katie Zeiders for serving on the search committee.
- Amy Kimme Hea began her appointment as Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs on August 3, 2026. Thank you to past UWGEC chair Jeremy Vetter for serving on the interim selection advisory committee.
- Melissa Colchado was appointed Executive Director of Health Science Operations on July 13, 2026. A big thank you to Melissa who provided support during the transition period of health sciences.
- Bettyjo Bouchey appointed Senior Vice Provost for Online Education Beginning September 14, 2026. Thank you to past Staff Council Vice Chair, Danielle Barefoot for serving on the search committee.

### **Search Updates**

- Searches for the colleges of Nursing, Information Science, and Engineering will begin this fall.
- The search for the Yuma Regional Director is underway. Campus interviews and forums in Yuma are taking place. Thank you to past faculty senate secretary Katie Zeiders for serving on the committee that helped to craft the position description.

### **Organizational Announcements**

- On June 9, Provost Prelock and Senior Vice President Tomas Diaz de la Rubia sent a message to all faculty, staff, and designated campus colleagues announcing the final phase of the university's health sciences realignment. First announced a year earlier, the realignment is intended to streamline the administrative structure and

create a more cohesive organization in support of the university's health mission.

- Read the full message here: [Organizational Announcement | University of Arizona Provost](#)

### **Campus Orientation and Welcome Events**

- New Faculty Orientation took place on August 17–18, 2026. Thank you Chair Hudson for your participation and addressing the new faculty.
- HeadsUp Fall Forum and New Heads Fall Forum and Training took place on August 6 and 12, 2026. Several university leaders participated in open discussion with the heads.
- New Graduate Student Orientation took place on August 19, 2026.
- Destination Arizona took place August 20–22, 2026. This on-campus transition experience is designed to welcome new students to campus before the start of classes. The program focuses on three themes: Academic Enrichment, Self-Advocacy, and Community Engagement.

### **Initiatives**

- This fall Provost Prelock will be holding campus conversations with postdoctoral scholars and the faculty who work with them with the goal of learning more about how we can best support them and the important work they are doing.
- In FY26 over 90% of the [Provost's Investment Fund](#) was directed toward support for faculty, instruction and research.
- For FY27 the Provost Office will continue to fund the Faculty Center and Faculty Senate with an allocated annual budget of \$268K for staff support, faculty senate leader stipends, and operating expenses.
- We have made significant progress on our Academic Success Goals thanks to our leads, our faculty and staff Provost Fellows, UAIR, the leadership of Jenna Rickus and Nina Bates and many campus partners. I look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.