Provost’s Report

CSU Academic Council Meeting
On April 9th, Provosts from all CSU campuses met for two days at the CSU Academic Council meeting. Emergency preparedness was a primary focus of discussion. Each division on campus is working on a business continuity plan to identify and prioritize essential functions and leadership plans in emergencies. It was most beneficial to hear from my fellow Provosts, whose campuses were recently affected by the fires, as they shared the following key learnings from dealing with their emergencies:

- Communication is vital.
- When an emergency arises, an action plan needs to be executed in a timely manner. Time for discussion will be very limited.
- Quick decisions will need to be made, so it’s critical to know who is the designated leader.

Welcome to Cal State Fullerton Day
The weather was perfect as our campus welcomed thousands of students and their families to Welcome Day. They explored the Titan Experience Fairs, took campus tours, had their questions answered at the Titan Admission Acceptance Center, and attended various workshops. Campus debuted the Choose 15 Units Drive with marketing assets (table talkers) in various locations, encouraging potential new students to take 15 units a semester to graduate in four years.

36th Annual NSM Awards Banquet
As an educator, it’s always a joy to see the results of the hard work of our students and faculty. I had the privilege of attending the 36th Annual NSM Awards banquet on April 15th. Our NSM students are incredibly talented, and the dedication of our faculty to the student-research programs, as well as to their research, is remarkable. Our students and faculty are passionate and devoted to their research projects, often traveling the globe and undoubtedly making everlasting impacts in the world.

Reaccreditation (WASC Senior College and University Commission)
In preparation for our reaffirmation of accreditation, Su Swarat, Steve Walk, and I spent time with faculty, staff, and students at the Irvine Center on March 28th and again on April 23rd. The Irvine Center review takes place on April 25th. Dr. Clint-Michael Reneau, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, and I are presenting at the ASI Board meeting on April 23rd to review the highlights of the university’s self-study and Institutional Report with ASI leaders. These visits are two examples of the many interactions taking place to communicate what our campus members identified as our main strengths, our challenges, and answering any questions concerning WASC or our Institutional Report.

WASC Academic Resource Conference
Our campus was well-represented at the WASC ARC Conference. The conference provided an opportunity for us to showcase our success, and we learned from other campuses and WASC officials. We received helpful suggestions for individuals meeting with reviewers, including:

- Be punctual. The agenda for the visit will be tight, so meetings need to take place when scheduled.
- Refrain from using electronic devices during meetings.
- Pay close attention to the questions asked and answer directly.
Feel free to refer reviewers to others on campus to provide appropriate answers to questions.

Spring Mihaylo All-College Forum
I had the honor of welcoming our colleagues at this year’s Spring Mihaylo All-College Forum on April 19th. The forum is an opportunity for students and faculty to connect, learn about student projects, strategic plans, introduce new staff members, and learn about available career programs. It was also a day to recognize and celebrate achievements. Additionally, I was able to explain the role of a Provost. Webster’s Dictionary lists several definitions of a provost, two of which include the mayor of Scottish town and a prison warden. I cleared up any confusion.

Finish Strong
The finish line is in sight! As the semester winds down and preparation for finals ramps up, I want to take a moment to say thank you on behalf of the University for your dedication to our students’ success. You have opened minds, as well as doors of opportunity. As you run that last mile, final in one hand and coffee in the other, I encourage you to celebrate your part in helping so many students to finish strong.