

Colleagues,

Welcome back to the new Academic Year at Southeast Missouri State University! I am so looking forward to working alongside you again in this new year.

As we embark on Academic Year 2020-2021, our community is poised to face the challenges to our mission of ensuring student success in their education, their life and their work. Many challenges involve ensuring a safe teaching and learning environment, and through the guidance provided by the Emergency Response Team I know you are all hard at work, reimagining and adjusting for the necessary changes to your courses and spaces to ensure safety while retaining the academic quality that we always provide at Southeast.

Other challenges are fiscal, with reduced budgets from the state, and require us to simultaneously focus our resources where they will serve to ground and strengthen our colleges, even as we adapt them to the current moment. I know you all will have ideas on how to maximize the resources for your departments and strategize for the future and I will look for you to contribute substantially as we look towards the future.

Academic Prioritization Review

As we proceed with our goal of a comprehensive academic prioritization program review, your vital experiences in meeting student demand, and awareness of student outcomes, should guide your department and college contributions and recommendations to the decision-making process. Reviewing the status and progress of all our programs is already part of our systemic process to ensure quality education. This year's process will bring those periodic reviews into a focused season where we look at our offerings holistically and make intelligent judgements about where we are at and where we need to be to best serve our students – to be successful in life and work beyond the walls of our distinguished institution.

As part of the academic prioritization program review, majors, options, minors, and certificates will be reviewed for degree productivity using the methodology outlined on the program prioritization website at: <https://semo.edu/provost/academic-prioritization.html>

Please refer to the website for information on the process as well as the timeline for completion of the initial reviews this fall. Thank you for your diligent efforts in this endeavor. I know together we can achieve what we need to do to grow as a University.

Faculty Training for Courses that Changed Delivery Mode to Online

For the Fall 2020 semester, a review will be required of any course that is not currently Quality Matters (QM) certified, and is changing from a face-to-face format to either a fully online or fully remote delivery method (following approval by the Chair, Dean and Provost Office.) This includes both synchronous (such as courses using live Zoom sessions) and asynchronous courses (typically what we consider an online course). Exclusions to this review process are the one-on-one interactions that have to transition to synchronous interactions such as vocal and music lessons.

Faculty teaching online courses not yet QM approved need to contact CTL by Aug 10th to set up a meeting time to discuss individual training needs. For detailed info on the guidelines and process visit <https://semo.edu/ctl/guidelines/index.html>

Inform Students of Changes in Delivery Mode

With all the changes in delivery this fall, communication to students will be critical. Please begin emailing students to inform them of any changes of delivery for your courses or to inform them there are no changes if that is the case. Be sure that information is communicated in your class info on the LMS as well as your course syllabus. General emails and social media posts will inform students to check for communications from their faculty. All students should be contacted by August 17th.

I know I have said this several times before, but I am proud to be among all of you and honored to continue to serve as your Provost. I am excited and optimistic for a successful upcoming Academic Year and look forward to our continued work together to meet the needs of our students.

Respectfully,

Mike



/ Mike Godard, Ph.D.

Provost

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