

## **Provost's Announcements to the Faculty Senate**

### **November 8, 2022**

- 1. Welcoming new colleagues in Multicultural Student Services:** I'm delighted that Vanice Antrum has returned to SU to serve as Director of Multicultural Affairs. She's joined by Robby Chin who will be serving as program administrative specialist. Both Vanice and Robby are SU alumni and bring significant experience and energy to their roles in the Office of Diversity & Inclusion. **FS Action Requested: None, informational item.**
  
- 2. Middle States Re-Accreditation Process, Standards and Timeline:** The University is launching preparations for our next accreditation cycle with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The [accreditation process](#) revolves around seven standards and fifteen Requirements of Affiliation. The tentative timeline for the process is as follows:
  - October-Nov-Dec 2022: Self-Study Training Institute; Steering Committee and Working Groups members appointed
  - Spring 2023: Steering Committee develops Self-Study Design (March 2023 visit from MSCHE liaison)
  - Spring through June, 2023: Working Groups begin to collect and analyze evidence based on the Self-Study design
  - Early Fall 2023: Self-Study design reviewed by University community; Steering Committee holds open meeting with entire community to receive feedback
  - October 2023: Steering Committee meets with working groups
  - Nov 2023-Apr 2024: Working groups conduct analysis and create reports
  - March 2024: Working groups submit reports
  - Apr-June 2024: Self-Study draft written
  - July 2024: Self-Study draft circulated to President's Cabinet
  - September 2024: Self-Study draft sent to campus for comment including open meeting
  - November 2024: Preliminary visit by Middle States site team chair
  - December 2024: Steering Committee finalizes draft
  - January 2025: Submit Self-Study
  - March 2025: MSCHE Site Team visit**FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
  
- 3. Supporting faculty as they support students:** As a follow-up to the discussion at the last Faculty Senate meeting, the Provost's Office is working on January workshops to support faculty as they engage with and mentor students who are struggling with mental or behavioral health issues. The [Counseling Center](#) has a number of in-person, virtual and online resources available to students as well as [Kognito](#) (training on how to support others who are experiencing emotional or psychological distress). We also have requested that the Purple Folders (compendium of mental health and other resources on campus) be updated and distributed to faculty and student-facing staff. **FS Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**

4. **Expanding academic support for students:** As noted in several recent articles and in your classrooms, many students are struggling academically as a result of the sustained impacts of the pandemic and other factors. I have been in conversation with several faculty and staff and leadership groups like the Faculty Senate's Long-Range Academic Planning Committee on how to expand and systematize support. We'll be taking input and looking at several potential strategies including developmental courses, college preparatory work to be offered to high school students, and staffing needs in key areas. More on this to come, but I wanted the Faculty Senators to know this is an area of focus.  
**Action Requested: Happy to take any questions or feedback.**
5. **The Square** will be the new name of Red Square, the space in front of the GAC. Among other reasons for the change, the space is no longer painted red and our campus colors do not include red. **FS Action Requested: None, informational item.**