



Once again we have come to the end of a busy and productive academic year. For some of us, that means shifting our focus to concentrate more on scholarly research. For others the change of season means having the opportunity to do more planning and strategizing for the fall. I hope that all of us, regardless of whatever else we turn our attention and energy to this summer, make time for relaxation and rejuvenation.

It has been a year of extraordinary accomplishments at the Dietrich School and the College of General Studies. Our faculty, students and staff have distinguished themselves in and beyond the classroom, and their achievements continue to elevate and honor the entire University. For some time, my leadership team has been exploring how to address the inadequacy of the job titles of our faculty colleagues in the Lecturer track who provide a significant amount of our teaching, advising and mentorship.

Adam Leibovich, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, has championed this effort, recognizing several years ago, during his tenure as chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, that “Lecturer” did not accurately convey the full scope of responsibilities and activities that these essential scholars were charged with. The term Lecturer was viewed as outdated and many of our peer institutions, including Carnegie Mellon University, had shifted away from it, opting instead for titles that incorporated both the word “teaching” and the conveyance of academic rank—assistant professor, associate professor, and professor.

For more than a year, we have worked to advance a title change proposal through the appropriate administrative and governing bodies at the University and the school, including the Office of the Provost, the Pitt Board of Trustees, the Dietrich School’s Chairs and Directors, the Dietrich School Council, and finally, in April, the Dietrich School’s Full Faculty. During the Spring Full Faculty Meeting, the voting faculty overwhelmingly passed a proposal to change our Lecturers titles as follows:

- Lecturer I becomes Teaching Assistant Professor
- Lecturer II becomes Teaching Associate Professor
- Senior Lecturer becomes Teaching Professor

While there was some discussion about the exact order of the wording in the new titles, University requirements necessitated that the prefix “teaching” had to precede the academic rank of assistant, associate and professor.

Dietrich School staff are working with the University’s Human Resources and Payroll departments to ensure that necessary system updates are made to allow the title changes to be implemented. We anticipate that all impacted job titles will be updated to the new job

titles by July 1, 2022. For faculty members who are slated to receive a promotion, those whose promotions are effective after July 1, 2022 will have two updates, one at the current rank and one reflecting the new rank corresponding to the effective date of the promotion.

We are confident that this change reflects the importance of these roles, conveys the respect that these faculty members deserve, and brings us in better alignment with the nomenclature favored by peer and aspiration peer institutions. We are also deeply gratified by the support of our voting faculty members and the other governing bodies who participated in this effort to recognize key members of our community of learners.

I wish you a healthy and productive summer and look forward to seeing you on campus in the fall.