



Good morning, Academic Affairs!

Welcome back from spring break! I hope everyone had a relaxing week. It is hard to believe that we are already about halfway through the semester; no doubt things will continue to be busy! Below are a few quick updates I would like to share:

- We have two additional finalists interviewing for the CHSSA dean position visiting our campus this week (one is here today!) Please check out the [dean search website](#) for their CVs and letters of interest. Their open forum information is below. I hope to see you there!

**Dr. M. Gabriela Torres:**

- March 18, 2:30 pm
- NHS 160B

**Dr. Joseph M. Romero:**

- March 22, 2:30 pm
- NHS 160B

- As you most likely are aware, we are in the final preparation for our SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) Reaffirmation site visit scheduled for next week, March 25-28. Interviews will be occurring on campus during March 26th and 27th, and you should have already received your individualized instructions if you are scheduled to meet with the site team. If not, please reach out directly to Dr. Ricky Dobbs. Your expertise and contributions are vital to the success of this process, and we greatly appreciate your participation.
- I'm excited to announce the Spring 2024 Convocation will take place on Tuesday, April 9, in honor of Dr. Derald Harp, Professor of Horticulture. Dr. Harp has achieved the highest academic distinction, Regents Professor, bestowed upon faculty by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents for the 2023-2023 academic year.

In celebration of the Spring Convocation, all classes and offices on the main campus will be closed from 11 am to noon so that all faculty, staff, and students are able to attend. Faculty will participate in full academic regalia and gather for the processional at 10:45 am in the first-floor hallway of the Ferguson Social Sciences Building. If you are unable

to attend, please consult your respective dean in advance. I look forward to seeing everyone at this special event to honor both Dr. Harp and the history of our university!

- Please also mark your calendars for the Annual Research Symposium on April 17th from 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm in the RSC conference rooms. This is an exciting event that highlights the research of both our undergrad and graduate students. Make sure you [register](#) ahead of time.
- The Provost Office has begun a national search for the position of Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. Reporting directly to the Provost, the chosen candidate will assist with academic administration, policy, planning, and campus-wide initiatives. Focus will be on promoting faculty excellence, as well as initiatives that influence faculty work and well-being, providing guidance for the overall success of faculty careers. The Vice Provost will work closely with a wide range of university stakeholders and units, including faculty, deans and department heads, the Faculty Senate, Department Head Council, and other leadership teams on campus to sustain and strengthen shared governance. The [position search](#) has been posted with a priority review date of April 1st.
- Our office welcomes Ms. Brenda Walker and Ms. Leslie Horn to our team as administrative assistants. They both join us with extensive experience and I am excited to have them aboard to help from day-to-day tasks to larger initiatives across the academic affairs division. Feel free to stop by our suite any time to say hello!
- Please keep in mind my open-door meetings this semester. I would love to learn more about your research goals and interests, your teaching, ideas for campus improvement, or whatever else might be on your mind. I have set aside Tuesdays from 4-6 pm and Wednesdays from noon to 1 pm for these meetings. Other times are available upon request. Please email [Cynthia.Rhodes@tamuc.edu](mailto:Cynthia.Rhodes@tamuc.edu) to schedule a 30-minute appointment. I will also be hosting several faculty luncheons over the next several months; please let Cynthia know if you would be interested in attending.

Take good care, Lions!

tvh

