

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST



October 18, 2022

We are well into the fall season and have reached mid-term. This is the time we encourage students to reflect on how they are progressing in their courses. Faculty can support them by reporting out mid-term grades and having consultative meetings or communications with students on their progress. Thank you for all you do to support student goals.

This is also a time of reflection on faculty accomplishments. Our annual review and P&T processes are underway. Peer review is a cornerstone practice for advancing our collective work and success of individual faculty. This work is as time consuming as it is important. I recognize and am grateful for all that you contribute to our peer review processes.

We celebrate faculty accomplishments because they are essential to the success of the university. The installation of President Cruz Rivera was an inspiring event that launched NAU on its new journey to being recognized for delivering on the promise of [equitable post-secondary value](#). We will be the engine of opportunity, vehicle of upward mobility, and driver of social impact for our students and communities throughout Arizona.

We will recognize faculty achievements. In addition to the annual and promotion review processes, the university calls out distinctive contributions and accomplishments of our faculty with special awards and honorary ranks. Please see the notifications below calling for nominations for Regents' Professor, and university awards sponsored by the Office of the Provost.

Looking ahead, we have more to achieve to reach the goals outlined in [Elevating Excellence](#). Most significant for the academic division are: 1) ensuring our degree programs prepare students for success beyond graduation; 2) shaping our academic program portfolio to serve the distinctive needs of communities and students around the state and through NAU Online to increase access and educational attainment via statewide sites; and 3) examining student learning and success. We will be working on these endeavors across the university and will share more outcomes very soon.

The Provost Office Team (aka POT) has been busy on many fronts: we continue to collaborate with the Faculty Senate to develop a workload policy framework; initiate the long overdue updating of the Conditions of Faculty Service (COFS); consider how to improve the evaluation of teaching; reflect on how we might conserve faculty effort in service; and work on the new General Studies program.

Other ongoing efforts include: the LMS transition to Canvas; preparing for a faculty climate survey (coming to you from the Higher Education Research Institute); strengthening

resources and support for our academic advising professionals; and growing undergraduate research and creative activity.

We have also been busy planning faculty searches. The first round has launched, and another round is coming soon. Recruitment of faculty is important. I know it takes a great deal of your time, but it is time well invested. Please consider your work on faculty searches to be a recruitment project first and foremost. While rigorous evaluation and selection is inherent to hiring, our objective is to recruit new colleagues who will enhance our academic programs, support student success, advance our goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion, and contribute to the research and scholarship that distinguishes us as a research university. Please consider how to create compelling advertisements that highlight great opportunities at NAU and engage with applicants in a way that builds their interest in joining our community.

Best,



Karen

October Updates

Awards – *Call for nominations!*

In recognition of the many facets of faculty and academic professionals work, the following awards are open for AY2022-2023. For specific information and details about the selection process, application and nominations please see the links below.

- Nominations for Regents' Professor are due by close of business on December 1, 2022 <https://in.nau.edu/provost/faculty-awards-honors/>
- Nominations for the following awards are due by close of business on March 3, 2023:
 - [NAU Award for Excellence in Service and Leadership](#)
 - [NAU Award for Faculty Excellence in Global Learning](#)
 - [NAU Award for Faculty Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#) (open to 2023 College Teachers of the Year). TOY recipients are considered for the award for excellence in teaching and learning without applying. There will be a committee review of the TOY recipients to determine the awardee.

Continued Canvas Conversations

The Teaching and Learning Center and our Instructional Design and Support teams are continuing to host [Canvas Conversation](#) sessions on many different topics, ranging from how to use Canvas capabilities in foundational aspects of course design to strategies for integrating best practices on student engagement. These sessions are a key resource for gaining familiarity with Canvas and reflecting on how Canvas's capabilities can inform course shell design.