



November 2015

Dear President Weisenstein,

The Faculty Senate of West Chester University strongly urges you to employ formal process to evaluate and recommend candidate(s) for the position of permanent Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, should you decide to make an appointment to that position in the coming weeks. Faculty Senate is poised to assist you in the formation of a representative committee through which this shared governance process could make a recommendation to you as early as January 4th, 2016.

The Faculty Senate favors a regular, full, national search for any permanent administrative position. We understand, however, that a prolonged search process for a permanent provost may not be in the best interest of WCU during this time of administrative and institutional transition. If you believe swift action is called for, then we believe that a broadly representative, inclusive, and transparent evaluation process is the next best alternative to a national search.

We firmly believe that transparent process and involvement of representatives from key campus constituencies is necessary to legitimize the appointment of an individual to a cabinet level position and that any other process would disadvantage the appointee and the institution. The upcoming significant transition occurring within administration at WCU requires as much stability as possible; and also requires the support and inclusion of the entire campus community. WCU's greatest resources are in the faculty, staff, and students that live, work, and learn here. Keeping WCU's greatest resources out of administrative appointment processes violates the trust and respect these groups deserve. Permanent appointments demand an investment in due process, inclusion, transparency, and input from all these campus constituency groups.

We look forward to working with you to help stabilize and continue WCU's administrative excellence. Thank you.