



University of  
Kentucky®

FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT  
Eli Capilouto

Members of the University Community,

Following Provost Tim Tracy's decision last week to become Chief Executive Officer of Aprelia Pharmaceuticals, I have been talking with dozens of people across our campus, including each of the deans, my direct reports, the Chair of the Senate Council, and the faculty trustees. I asked for input on three items:

1. What are the most pressing challenges facing the next Provost?
2. What specific skill set is most valuable to the role?
3. What are the most appropriate next steps in this process?

What emerged most clearly was a sense of urgency and a commitment to the goals and initiatives we already have established and are pursuing.

We reported to the Board of Trustees in early October on our progress on our current Strategic Plan. We have undertaken a variety of initiatives across the five goals of our Plan and we have made substantial progress in many areas. But there is much more to accomplish. The Board then engaged in an hours long discussion with representatives of the faculty and staff about the rapidly changing economic, political, demographic, and technological landscape facing higher education in general and the University of Kentucky in particular. We talked about our responsibility to assess our fluid context, predict where the trends will take us, and respond accordingly. We also talked about how these forces will continue to shape our missions of instruction, research, health care, and service? I have started a conversation about these challenges with the University Senate and the Staff Senate.

Based on: 1) my conversations in recent days; 2) our confidence in our Strategic Plan; 3) the long list of initiatives we have undertaken; and 4) the unsettled environment in which we do our work, I have concluded that the wisest course of action is an internal search for our next Provost to help

lead us forward. I am confident we have the on-campus talent necessary to finding our next Chief Academic Officer.

To that end, and with respect for our Governing Regulations, I have appointed a search committee to review internal candidates. Dean Nancy Cox and Executive Vice President Eric Monday have agreed to serve as co-chairs. The other members of the Committee are:

- Kim Anderson, Professor, College of Engineering
- Bob DiPaola, Dean, College of Medicine
- Sonja Feist-Price, Vice President, Institutional Diversity
- Elizabeth Foster, Vice President, Student Government Association
- Jon Gent, Chair, Staff Senate
- Andrew Hippisley, Professor, College of Arts and Sciences
- Katherine McCormick, Chair, Senate Council
- Gina Toma, Professor, Martin School of Public Administration

I will meet with the Committee soon to ask that they act with a sense of purpose, deliberation, and urgency. The position will be posted Monday, November 13 and remain available for seven days. The Committee will begin reviewing applications Monday, November 20 with the aim of identifying 1-3 candidates who should be considered by the campus. Using the same process we used in the previous search, the finalist or finalists will meet with various campus constituencies and hold an open forum the week of December 4. I will then make the selection of our next Provost, should a candidate be successful through these stages.

The co-chairs and I will keep you informed throughout this process.

Thank you for the work you do every day to make this a special place.

Eli Capilouto  
President

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