

## Important Announcement About the Provost Search

Feb. 9, 2015

Members of the University Community;

On December 19, I wrote to you regarding the process for selecting our next Provost. I had spent several days talking with over 60 members of our community to seek guidance. A strong sense of urgency was threaded through those conversations, motivated by the list of initiatives across our campus that require immediate and sustained attention:

1. Strengthening our work in undergraduate student retention and graduation;
2. Strengthening our graduate and professional education efforts;
3. Advancing our research enterprise;
4. Fostering with greater urgency an inclusive campus environment that celebrates the multitude of backgrounds and perspectives;
5. Further refining and completing of our next Strategic Plan;
6. Implementing a new financial model; and
7. Selecting deans for the colleges of Dentistry, Design, Medicine, and Public Health.

To move efficiently and effectively, we have looked for our next Provost among our current community. A diverse Search Committee – chaired by Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Nancy Cox and Vice President for Student Affairs Robert Mock – has worked diligently over the last few weeks to narrow the field of candidates.

In consultation with the Committee and other members of our community, I am pleased to announce two finalists — Gatton College of Business and Economics Dean David Blackwell and College of Pharmacy Dean Tim Tracy — will be meeting with various constituencies this week, including deans, faculty, staff, and students. There also will be public forums involving each candidate on main campus and at UK HealthCare.

On Thursday, February 12, we will hold public forums in the Great Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) of the M.I. King Library:

- Dean Blackwell from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Dean Tracy from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

On Friday, February 13, we will hold public forums in the UK Chandler Hospital Pavilion A Auditorium:

- Dean Tracy from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
- Dean Blackwell from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Each candidate will speak for a few minutes at the beginning of the forum before taking written questions from audience members. Both forums will be live streamed and there will be opportunity for those watching remotely to ask questions. Additional information about the forums and ways to engage in the discussion will be distributed on UKNow later this week.

In their opening comments, they will be asked to address three general areas:

- How their backgrounds prepare them for this important position;
- How they believe with their leadership we can continue our momentum and make progress in the important areas of student success, graduate education and research; and
- Their thoughts on steps we can take together to create a more inclusive and equitable campus community and environment

The Search Committee and I arrived at this decision because both Dean Blackwell and Dean Tracy already are significant leaders on our campus, with strong academic and research backgrounds. Both lead thriving colleges that have demonstrated a capacity to adapt in a changing higher education environment. And both have been willing to take on challenging assignments beyond their colleges in service to the entire campus.

I am deeply appreciative of the many hours the Search Committee committed over the last few weeks to get us to this moment. And I appreciate your continued interest in our selection of our next chief academic officer. I encourage you to attend the forums and provide feedback.

Sincerely,

Eli Capilouto  
President