

College of Arts and Sciences
Meeting of Faculty Assembly
HM 100

September 13, 2019

3:00-4:15 PM

STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS

Dr. David Schultz, Chair, called the Faculty Assembly to order at 3:01 PM.

Dr. Schultz then recognized Dean Kimberly Kempf-Leonard to deliver the 2019-20 State of the College Address.

Dean Leonard's presentation focused on the theme of "Cardinal Values" as articulated by President Bendapudi. Specifically, the dean's address focused on the College's accomplishments and progress in the following areas:

- **Knowledge advancement and production:** The State of the College Address highlighted faculty and student research production and College grantsmanship.
- **Collaboration:** The dean focused on the College's collaborative research efforts and interdisciplinary teaching.
- **Engagement:** Faculty and staff in the College continue to demonstrate sustained community and professional engagement.
- **Dynamism:** Dean Leonard focused on programmatic innovation, curricular change, and the new undergraduate research initiative spearheaded by Associate Dean Fuselier. The dean also mentioned ongoing efforts to develop effective means for evaluating teaching excellence and this year's efforts to hold a series of informational meetings for staff. Finally, she noted that the College finally has a fully-staffed development team and that fundraising should be on the upswing going forward.
- **Community-Building:** In this portion of her address, the dean focused on student success, recognizing students who have received local, regional, national, and international awards for their outstanding performance. Attention next turned to student demographics and degree production. This year's first-year class is large and diverse, but the College continues to see overall negative trends in terms of degree production and undergraduate enrollment. One important departure from this negative trend is the College's success working with students who are under-represented, underfunded and/or underprepared. The College's six-year graduation rate for students in these categories has increased from 51% to 52.4%.

The dean concluded her remarks by focusing on the fact that the College of Arts and Sciences is "poised and ready" to move forward after five years of financial challenges and ongoing reorganization. The dean acknowledged that the College's permanent staff decline from 220 persons in 2016-17 to 156 in 2019-20 and the faculty staffing decline from 417 to 390 have been difficult, but she noted optimistically that the College of Arts and Sciences is uniquely poised to adapt to new realities and to come up with strategies for success. The dean was particularly excited

about the possibility of adding tenure-track teaching lines and about what the new performance-based budget should mean for A&S. With the unit receiving funds based on the credit hours that it generates, A&S should have more resources available to support its academic programs and to provide necessary support structures and personnel.

As this was Dean Leonard's last State of the College Address as Dean of the College, she concluded by thanking the assembled faculty and staff for allowing her the privilege of serving as dean.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.