



Susan Barber <sbarber@cnu.edu>

farewell as provost, hello as professor

1 message

Mark Padilla <mark.padilla@cnu.edu>

Wed, Jul 10, 2013 at 11:16 AM

To: "faculty@cnu.edu" <faculty@cnu.edu>, employees@cnu.edu

Esteemed Colleagues:

My six-year tenure as provost has now run its course for meeting my professional goals, and, due to personal preferences and priorities, I have asked President Tribble to facilitate a return to the classroom.

I begin a return-to-teaching leave on Monday, July 15th, and I will teach full-time starting spring 2014.

I am grateful to the President for approving this transition, and for his support throughout my provost tenure. Thank YOU, too, dear reader, for your collegiality and engagement. Please accept my continuing respect and friendship.

As I ready for other university challenges, I also possess family commitments that increasingly compete with a provost's rhythms. It is indeed time for a successor to be found, one who can continue to provide the energy and deep engagement CNU needs from the position.

I consider this the choice moment to vacate my administrative responsibilities without impinging on the trust you have invested in me, a trust I have embraced with dedication and responsibility. I have helped many while rendering the University as a whole academically stronger and better positioned in the sector of liberal arts higher education. The arc of this sundry work draws to its endpoint with a significant and nuanced faculty salary plan beginning in the new contract period.

I hope that my attention to faculty issues, curriculum, personnel, facility-use planning, and budgeting has been successful. I am proud that Academic Affairs moved forward during an age of state-funding decline. Together we averted the compromise of faculty development funding during the recent recession, attained a better course-load distribution,

and increased transparency and coherence in the performance review and hiring systems.

As part of my twenty-three direct reports since 2007, I supervised the duties of seven deans, three vice provosts, and three associate provosts.

I was privileged to work with hardworking and able administrators--too many to thank by name here. I hired 125 full-time faculty instructors of our 270 state-and-grant funded positions that will begin the 13-14 academic year.

I am confident that CNU is successfully realizing itself as a premier liberal arts university, and I humbly hope you will find Academic Affairs to be healthy and in sound order.

There are no outstanding personnel or budget issues.

We improved protocols and clarified rationales for the major and minor processes connecting budget with instruction and instructional support. I promoted academic excellence and multidisciplinary.

It was thrilling to be part of the "fourth floor," and the Provost's Office now relocated itself with aplomb.

I will continue to value my many friendly relationships, hitherto nurtured by the routines of administrative duty.

I now broaden my campus bonds in other university networks from the perch of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures.

I will teach classics and the classical tradition.

The Provost's (2nd-floor) McMurran office suite will be closed on Thursday July 11, and Friday it is closed for Recognition Leave. The suite will reopen on Monday July 15 with a new provost to serve you.

I predict a smooth transition. Indeed, I support my successor and I ask the faculty in particular to offer the same courtesy. There is no single "formula" for the successful provost, or, to shift the metaphor from science to humanities, the position is more of a "verb" than a "noun." Please be supportive while communicative, and in this way you will meaningfully participate in this locus of dynamism.

I look forward to hearing from you at my continuing CNU email address. Paper correspondence may be sent to the provost's office for holding or to the

MCLL Office.

For personal mail, please mark the envelope confidential. Office arrangements will shake themselves out.

You have my fondest wishes for a halcyon summer,

Mark

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Mark. W. Padilla, Ph.D.

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