

the 411 on Academic Affairs

February 29

Why not start our *the 411 on Academic Affairs* on a date we only get to use every 4 years? Happy Leap Day – I guess that is what you call February 29. Welcome to the first edition of 411 in which we will try to do just that, give you the 411 of what is happening in the division. I believe “411” comes from the telephone number we used to use for directory assistance and has become slang for a report of recent events or facts not previously known or information not generally known to the public. We chose this abbreviation to signal that you should have the “skinny” on what is happening in academic affairs, and we’ll try to produce it on a monthly basis.

2016 Commencement

Our 2016 Commencement Ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 6, at Germain Arena. This will be our final commencement ceremony in Germain Arena.

Commencement Day Schedule

Graduate Rehearsal Breakfast - 9 a.m.	Ceremony Starts - 6 p.m.
Rehearsal - 10 a.m.	Approx. Ceremony end time - 8:30 p.m.
Break for lunch on your own - 1 p.m.	Clean up - End of the ceremony until approx. 10 p.m.

We help make many great memories at commencement for our students and their families, and we are always trying to improve upon each previous year. If you have any feedback on past commencements, what worked and what we can do better, please send me your thoughts.

Ad Hoc Committee on 2017 Commencement

As you know, by the time our 2017 commencement rolls around, we will be in the Suncoast Credit Union Arena. It will be wonderful to have commencement on campus, and it will take some thoughtful analysis and organizing to make it wonderful for our students. I’ve asked the Faculty Senate to create a committee to think about all aspects and bring me recommendations. Since Dr. Christine Davis has been a leader for us in our Germain Arena commencements, I’ve asked her to be on the committee along with one of our college deans. I look forward to learning the faculty’s thoughts about this important annual event for our students.

Faculty Kudos

Congratulations to Dr. Wendy Chase together with co-chair Dr. Elijah Pritchett for coordinating the successful colloquium “Education for a New Humanity Spring 2016.” Special thanks go to Jade Dellinger for partnering to bring in external presenters and to Dr. Russell Swanson, Dr. Bruno Baltodano, and Dr. Rozalind Jester for their highly-praised guest lectures.

Many thanks to Professor Don Ransford and the General Education Program Review Committee for designing and implementing the "Meeting of the Minds" workshop series in support of the General Education Program. Thanks to Dr. Brian Page, Dr. Lisa McGarity, and Professor Jane Charles for their recent workshops. Check out the TLC Calendar for upcoming sessions. <http://www.fsw.edu/tlc/about>

Introduction

I would like to welcome Lisa Murphy to FSW. Lisa is our new Executive Assistant for Office of the Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs. She has 18 years of executive administrative support experience with prominent law firms both in New Jersey and New York City as well as 10 years of executive administrative support experience in the fields of technology and marketing here in Florida. Please stop by and welcome her when you can. She is very eager to meet everyone and become an integral part of the Florida SouthWestern community.

Spring Break

We are all looking forward to Spring Break, which runs March 7-11. Whether you will be traveling or relaxing with a staycation here in beautiful southwest Florida, I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable break.

During my first month as interim provost, I have tried to listen to the faculty about what is working well, what challenges they face, and how my office can better support the faculty. Please feel free to send any questions, comments and concerns to me at any time at Jeffrey.Stewart@fsw.edu.