

This message is sent on behalf of Jeremy Haefner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Colleagues,

It is with mixed feelings that I inform the RIT community that Dr. H. Fred Walker has been selected as the 18th president of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania by the Edinboro University Board of Trustees. As a result, Dr. Walker will be resigning as dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology and as faculty member at RIT on June 30th, 2016. While we will miss our colleague, RIT takes considerable pride in the fact that Dr. Walker is advancing to lead another institution of higher education.

Dr. Walker began his tenure as dean of CAST in August 2008 and during that time the college has continued to prosper. He provided key leadership that led to a CAST strategic plan, resulting in improved processes, effective use of educational resources and increased professional development for faculty and staff. The college enjoyed many accomplishments including improved retention and graduation rates, increased scholarship, the development of new programs, and improved facilities. A notable highlight of Dr. Walker's tenure is a concerted effort to increase the number of faculty with terminal degrees by supporting existing faculty to complete a Ph.D. program. Since 2008, the percentage of faculty with terminal degrees rose from 33% in 2008 to nearly 90% by the end of 2016.

Dr. Walker began his career in the U.S. Navy where he served for nine years in avionics systems integration and automation. While in the Navy, Dr. Walker completed a B.S. degree in Industrial Technology and an MBA at California State University - Fresno. Following the Navy and Fresno State, Fred completed a Master of Engineering in Industrial and Systems Engineering and a Ph.D. in Industrial Education and Technology at Iowa State University. Fred established a significant depth of expertise in applied research having written 13 major books and 35 journal articles in Quality and Reliability Engineering. Dr. Walker holds 14 professional certifications from the American Society for Quality and he has worked and consulted extensively in industry. Prior to coming to RIT, Fred worked at the University of Southern Maine for 13 years where he progressed through the academic ranks, earned tenure, and assumed numerous leadership positions.

In writing to formally indicate his plans, Fred shared with me his sense of "...an enormous admiration for the many people I met and worked with at RIT, and those people particularly in CAST. Never have I met a more dedicated, positive, and collegial community of professionals and friends – I will miss them all dearly."

With this change in leadership, I will be meeting with the college to discuss the next steps in appointing an interim dean. In the coming weeks, I will be communicating more information about how we will recognize Fred and thank him for his service to RIT. Until then, please join me in congratulating Dr. Walker on his new appointment and wishing him well.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Haefner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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