



December Update

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of the calendar year, I am reminded of the excellence of our students, staff, and faculty and our supportive community. This season of joy is a time to reflect and share appreciation for our colleagues who make RIT a welcoming place. Before we all take time off to enjoy the holidays, I have a few updates.

Faculty Activity System

Over the past academic year, the Faculty Activity System TaskForce — co-chaired by Ivan Puchades, Associate Professor in the Kate Gleason College of Engineering, and John Tu, Senior Associate Dean in the Saunders College of Business — was charged by the Faculty Senate to evaluate options for a university-wide Faculty Activity System (FAS). This system is intended to support critical academic functions, including annual

evaluations, tenure and promotion, accreditation, grant reporting, and research collaboration.

More than 250 faculty members participated in the requirements gathering phase, providing valuable insights that shaped the selection process. After reviewing multiple vendor proposals, conducting extensive on-campus demonstrations, and soliciting faculty input, the task force recommended Watermark Faculty Success for its robust functionality and seamless workflow integration.

I fully support the selection. Implementation is scheduled to begin in July 2026 with a strong focus on system customization and faculty training to ensure a smooth and successful rollout. My sincere thanks to the members of the FAS Task Force and to all faculty and staff who contributed to this important effort.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) The MSCHE Self-Study Steering Committee is in the final stretch. The document has been submitted to MSCHE, and we are preparing for the External Evaluation Team's visit to campus from March 29 to April 1, 2026. We are delighted to have an experienced team of evaluators:

Name	Institution	Home City
Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President - Team Chair	Stevens Institute of Technology	Hoboken, NJ
Dr. James F. Trainer, Vice Provost Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness - Vice Chair	Villanova University	Villanova, PA
Prof. Mohamed Mohamed Nagib Abou-Zeid, Former Dean and Professor, School of Sciences and Engineering	American University in Cairo	Cairo, Egypt
Ms. Amy Faber, Senior Associate Vice President and Treasurer	Duquesne University	Pittsburgh, PA
Dr. Lorraine N. Fleming, Professor, Civil Engineering	Howard University	Washington, DC
Dr. Justin Lauka, Assistant Clinical Professor	Johns Hopkins University	Baltimore, MD

Prof. Jennifer M. Swann, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biological Sciences	Lehigh University	Bethlehem, PA
Dr. Helen Thumann, Director of Language, Education and Culture	Gallaudet University	Washington, DC

The team will also visit our campuses in Dubai and Croatia. Please view the self-study accompanying the Institutional Priorities Report on the reaccreditation website: <https://www.rit.edu/reaccreditation>.

Heartfelt appreciation to the 103 faculty, staff, and students who worked on this report, especially our co-chairs, Drs. Christine Licata, Vice Provost; Larry Buckley, Senior Associate Dean, COS, and Risa Robinson, Gleason Professor, Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Provost Speaker Series

Our speaker series got off to a great start this semester with two interesting presentations – one by Jeyhan Kartaltepe and the other by Juilee Decker, Roger L. Easton, Jr., and David W. Messinger. Many members of our community attended these interesting and insightful lectures. If you missed it, you can watch the replays on the Office of the

Provost website under communications. More to come in the spring semester!

Golisano Institute of Sustainability Visioning Committee

I have asked a group of faculty and staff from within GIS and across the University to generate ideas for new educational and research opportunities in sustainability at RIT. Ideas offered by the committee will build on RIT's strengths in sustainability, which are represented in different colleges and academic units. Our goal is to create innovative programs and pathways that establish our reputation as a thought leader in this area. The committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Matt Huenerfauth, Dean, Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences and Dr. Amit Batabyal, Head of the Department of Sustainability. If you have perspectives on this work, please direct them to the co-chairs.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Prabu".

Prabu David

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

