

January Update

Dear Colleagues,

As we contend with the snow and chilly temperatures, the semester is off to a brisk start. A special thank you to the snow removal team in Facilities Management for their efforts to keep our campus safe under challenging conditions.

It is hard to believe that January is almost coming to an end, which brings us to this month's update from Academic Affairs.

Provost's Town Hall Meeting

You are invited to the Spring Provost Town Hall Meeting. Please join me on Thursday, February 12 at 12:00 p.m. in the Sklarsky Glass Box Theatre (SHED Bldg.) You may also join the meeting virtually via Zoom, which requires [registration](#). If you have questions, please send them to

provost@rit.edu by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6. Associate Provosts Neeraj Buch and Diane Slusarski, and Dr. Chris Collison, Director of the AI Hub, will present at the town hall on Undergraduate Student Success, doctoral and master's programs, and the AI Hub.

Disability Services Office (DSO) Faculty Update

DSO Fellow Keri Barone is collaborating with Dr. Kate Torres, Director of DSO, and Brittany Taylor, Director of NTID Access Services, to strengthen faculty communication and support. The DSO Advisory Committee is seeking input from faculty on topics and concerns. Please respond when you receive a message from the committee.

Faculty are also encouraged to mark their calendars for the upcoming "Ask the Director" Zoom sessions: [Friday, January 30 \(10:30–11:30 a.m.\)](#), Tuesday, February 24 (10:30–11:30 a.m.), and Wednesday, April 1 (2:30–3:30 p.m.) Topics will include Flex Plans, interpreting services, instructional planning, and more. Faculty should not hesitate to reach out to Keri Barone with questions or for help connecting with the appropriate DSO resource.

GE Framework Revision: Working Groups Established

I'm happy to report that three working groups have been established to move the recommendations of the General Education Revision Task Force forward. To learn more about the specific tasks of each group, please read

the [Fall 2025 Executive Summary and Recommendations Report](#). My appreciation to the members of these working groups for their service. Gratitude as well to Leah Bradley, Elizabeth Hane, and Lauren Hall, the joint leaders of the GE Revision Task Force.

- **General Education Framework Revision Working Group**
Members: Leah Bradley (Co-Chair), Elizabeth Hane (Co-Chair), Elizabeth DeBartolo, Jessica Hardin, Matthew Houdek, and Kristoffer Whitney
- **First Year Course Working Group Members:** Kaitlin Stack Whitney (Chair), Irshad Altheimer, Ivona Bezáková, Mike Eastman, Phil Shaw, and Douglas Wadle **Advisory Group Members:** Garret Arcoraci, Kielynn Banker, Danielle Brown, Jennifer Schneider, Ryan Tolnay
- **First Year Writing Course Revision Working Group Members:** David Yockel (Chair), Philip Anselmo, Luke Daly, Emma Duncan, James Rankine **Advisory Group Members:** Kielynn Banker, Ryan Tolnay, L. Kate Wright

Student Success

As we continue to make student success our #1 priority, I'd like to draw your attention to several new initiatives:

Executive Starfish Academic Alerts Dashboard

Starfish Academic Alerts Executive Dashboard is now available to college leadership. The dashboard, which is updated every Monday, provides a high-level overview of academic alerts, highlighting students who have received alerts in multiple courses within three weeks. This tool supports early identification and timely intervention for students who may need additional academic assistance.

Change of Major

Efforts are underway to make the Change of Major process more transparent and easier for students to navigate. The goal is to ensure students have clear, consistent information at every step. I will share more about this in my February update.

Math Readiness Initiatives

Work continues to optimize math placement using the new Math Placement Exam (MPE). The team continues to work on wraparound supports—including Supplemental Instruction, Tutoring, Essential Trigonometry, and Critical Math Skills resources—to ensure students are

placed appropriately and receive the academic support needed for success.

Thanks to Dr. Neeraj Buch and his team for spearheading these initiatives.

Spring 2026 Academic Affairs Events

Please, mark your calendars.

- Thursday, March 26 is the [Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars Award Ceremony](#) which honors the top 1% of undergraduates.
- Wednesday, April 8 is the [Celebration of Teaching and Scholarship](#), recognizing RIT's outstanding faculty and staff for their excellence in innovation, teaching, and developing the next generation of leaders. Learn more about these events on the [Office of the Provost website](#).
- The Center for Teaching and Learning's [4th Annual Summer Institute for Teaching and Learning](#) will be held from May 13-15, 2026. The call for presenters will open in February 2026, and a detailed schedule and registration information will be shared later this semester.

As you know, the spring semester includes numerous events to celebrate our students and community, which brings us great joy. Please plan to attend

[Commencement Weekend 2026](#) (May 8 and 9) and consider attending a

college reception or a department celebration. These receptions are currently listed on the RIT Commencement website.

I would like to express my gratitude to our colleagues who make these events come to life.

I hope you have a good semester. Stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Prabu David

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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