RIT | Rochester Institute of Technology

October Update

Dear Colleagues,

The fall term is well underway. Here are a few updates from Academic Affairs.

Fall Town Hall
Thank you to the more than 500 colleagues who joined the Town Hall webinar last week and for your thoughtful questions before and during the session. We will continue to move forward with our FY27 priorities: student success, budget stewardship, general education revision, AI in the classroom, and the creation of HealthX. If you missed it, the recording is on the Office of the Provost Communications website.

Supporting Our Students
Let's continue to listen to our students and pay attention to their needs. We all play a role in sustaining a community of support, respect, and care. If a student is struggling or in crisis, please consult the Red Folder, an essential guide for faculty and staff to identify indicators of student distress.

Disability Services Office (DSO)
Keri Barone, DSO Faculty Fellow, is meeting with each college. She is sharing how she can serve as a resource for faculty, learning what faculty need most, and presenting feedback to DSO on communication, Flex Plans, the testing center, and Genio. Here are some opportunities for questions and feedback:

- **Faculty Senate Meeting, October 15**
  DSO Director Kate Torres will answer questions. The meeting is open to all.
- **Faculty Listening Session**
  Hosted by Keri with the College of Liberal Arts' Access, Engagement, and Success Committee. Date to be announced.
- **DSO Faculty Advisory Committee**
  The committee will reconvene soon to gather feedback and help shape next steps.

Operational Excellence
If you missed the announcement, you can read Building Operational Excellence and share your ideas with the steering committee here: Learn More About Building Operational Excellence.
RIT faculty/staff login required.

AI Leadership Sprint
As I mentioned during the Town Hall, developing guidance on AI in Teaching and Learning, with input from faculty, students and staff, is a key priority for this academic year. We are working with academic department leaders who participated in the AI Leadership Sprint in September to align our work with our mission and values, stakeholder needs, ethics, and market realities. Recordings can be found in the AI

Leadership Sprint Playlist. Access event materials from the AI Sprint Participant Resource folder.

Fram Signature Lecture
Please join us for the 2026 Fram Signature Lecture, *Is AI Just a Stochastic Parrot — Or an Apocalypse Waiting to Happen?* with Kerrie Holley. The lecture is on Tuesday, November 3, 3:30–5 p.m., in Ingle Auditorium, Student Alumni Union. Will AI transform our lives, take our jobs, or threaten humanity? What is demonstrated, what is plausible, and what is speculation? Let's think critically and not let the headlines do our thinking for us. Register here >.

Gender Related Experience
The University Advisory Committee on Gender Related Experience (UACGRE) continues to gather feedback from students, faculty, and staff to inform university policies and programs. Topics so far include gender bias, workplace climate, faculty evaluations, and classroom interactions. The committee is also exploring a brief staff survey. Please share your feedback with Heidi Nickisher at hcnfaa@rit.edu.

As always, thank you for your dedication to RIT and our students.

Sincerely,
Prabu

Prabu David
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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