Menino

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Menino left office in January after choosing not to run for a sixth term. Speaking at the press conference announcing his appointment, he pointed to BU’s “long history of contributing knowledge that makes a difference in the world. I look forward to playing my role in that great tradition, and making sure that our cities thrive for years to come. We are going to work together to talk about economic issues and environmental issues. We are going to take scientific talk and turn it into street talk.”

Enrique Silva, a Metropolitan College assistant professor of city planning and urban affairs, said he found the initiative “very bold and sophisticated. It’s innovative in that it recognizes that no single discipline owns the city. It also recognizes that to work on the city, and the range of issues that the city presents, the University needs to harness the various research and disciplines that we have here. The initiative will break silos and allow us to look at urban issues much more creatively.”

Students at the standing-room-only press conference at 100 Bay State Road said they were pleased that Menino, who had received offers to lecture and organize conferences at Harvard, Northeastern, Brandeis, and Suffolk Universities, had decided on BU.

“It rocks that we got him over Harvard,” said Devon McCarthy (CAS’16).

Jonathan Candelaria (COM’15), a First-Year Student Outreach Project coordinator working in urban engagement last summer, said he’s excited to see such a prominent political figure come to BU. “What really interests me, though, is that he’ll be focusing on urban issues while he’s here,” he said. “Having studied some of Boston’s urban issues this past summer, I’m eager to see what kind of societal impact he hopes to make through the BU community.”

Menino received an honorary degree from BU in 2001, and at the 2013 Commencement ceremonies he was awarded the Boston University Medallion for his service to the community. At the same time, Brown announced that the Boston Scholars Program, which awards merit scholarships to graduates of the city’s public schools, would be renamed the Thomas M. Menino Scholarship Program and recipients referred to as Menino Scholars.

BU Advances in Rankings

University, health and clinical education programs, School of Law faculty move up

THE rankings say Boston University is getting better and better.

That’s THE as in Times Higher Education magazine, which bumped BU up 4 spots to 50th, in its latest report card on what it calls the top 400 universities worldwide. The University was the 30th highest ranked American school on the list, which was topped, as last year, by the California Institute of Technology.

To compile the ratings, THE (formerly part of the Times of London) uses 13 criteria grouped in five areas—teaching, international outlook, research, research income from industry, and citations of faculty research. The University most impressed the raters on the last one, which THE dubs its “flagship” indicator of excellence.

In a nutshell, these measures “reflect faculty productivity,” says Melanie Madaio-O’Brien, assistant vice president for budget and institutional research. “For example, the score on research volume, income, and reputation increased, as did our score reflecting the number of citations. These measures are reflections of the quality of our faculty.”

Among New England peers BU outstripped in the rankings were Brown (52nd), Tufts (80th), Dartmouth (126th), the University of Massachusetts (132nd), Boston College (135th), Brandeis (164th),
Health and clinical education programs at BU have been ranked 22nd in the world by Times Higher Education, which, in a separate list, moved the University up 4 notches in its list of top universities worldwide.

School of Dental Medicine, the College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College, and the School of Social Work, according to Thomson Reuters.

“While BU received an overall score of 74.8 out of 100, our citation of research influence score is 95.8, highlighting the widespread impact of our research,” says Karen Antman, dean of MED, provost of the Medical Campus, and the John Sandson Professor of Health Sciences.

The rankings examine research influence by tracking the number of times a university’s published work is cited by scholars globally. This year Thomson Reuters examined more than 50 million citations to 6 million journal articles published over five years in assembling the rankings, according to the THE website.

The Review graded law schools in 11 categories and listed the top 10 law schools in each. BU ranked fifth among the schools surveyed for “best classroom experience.”

LAW PROFESSORS RANKED COUNTRY’S BEST

Being a great teacher always impresses those you’re teaching; sharing your home phone number for their after-hours questions helps, too. Student raves about such things prompted the Princeton Review to declare BU’s law professors the best in the nation in its 2014 edition of The Best 169 Law Schools.

It’s not the first time the rating-and-test-prep company has given the blue rib-