



One Silber Way
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
T 617-353-2230 F 617-353-6580
www.bu.edu/provost

TO: College of Arts & Sciences Faculty and Staff

FROM: Jean Morrison, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer 

DATE: September 10, 2018

SUBJECT: Formation of the Search Advisory Committee for the Dean of the Boston University College of Arts & Sciences

As you know, Dr. Ann Cudd [departed from her role](#) as Dean of the Boston University College of Arts & Sciences to become Provost at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Stan Sclaroff, Associate Dean for Mathematics and Computational Sciences and Professor of Computer Science in CAS, was [appointed](#) in August to the role of Dean *ad interim* for the 2018-2019 academic year.

A national search is planned to identify the next Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. Transitions in leadership at the decanal level provide important opportunities for the University community to reflect on the experiences and attributes that we seek for the individuals charged with providing vision and future direction for our academic units. Further, because of the role that CAS occupies at the core of liberal education and its status as the largest academic unit of the University, the search for the next Dean of CAS is a particularly important undertaking.

The process for constituting a Dean Search Advisory Committee, outlined in the [BU Faculty Handbook](#), specifies that: *"the advisory committee shall consist of three faculty members elected by the faculty of the School for which a dean is to be selected, two faculty members elected by the Faculty Council from other Schools, and as many as three members designated by the provost."*

The faculty members who are appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee will have responsibility for directing the search effort and should be among our most thoughtful, engaged, and committed scholars, teachers, and leaders. Potential committee members should demonstrate the capacity to proactively attract and recruit outstanding candidates for the CAS deanship. The committee members will be actively engaged in building a deep and diverse pool of applicants with the demonstrated strengths and capacities to lead an organization that is larger than many small universities, and is at the heart of our undergraduate and graduate missions. The faculty best positioned for service on the search advisory committee will have significant scholarly and professional profiles. Please note that no member of the Advisory Committee may be considered him or herself for the position of Dean.

Accordingly, I am requesting that faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences organize internally to

solicit nominations and to elect three faculty representatives to the Search Advisory Committee. I have asked Lucy Russell, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, to work with the department chairs in CAS to identify one department chair from each of the four disciplinary units: Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Computational & Mathematical Sciences to serve as an Election Committee. Those four department chairs will conduct an election to select the three faculty members from CAS who will be members of the Dean's Search Advisory Committee. The four individuals who would comprise the Election Committee should neither want to serve on the Dean Search Advisory Committee nor want to be a candidate for the Dean's position themselves.

In addition, President Brown and I welcome input into the state of the College, the qualities and qualifications the next Dean should possess and the search process itself. We are eager to hear directly about the issues that are of greatest concern to faculty as we begin the process of selecting the next Dean of CAS. This input will help to inform our deliberations about the next Dean of CAS.

Boston University's Faculty Council will also be sending an email communication to all members of the faculty on both campuses requesting nominations of candidates external to CAS to fill the two elected seats on the Dean's Search Advisory Committee. Nominations or expressions of interest can be sent to the Faculty Council (fafc@bu.edu). Please note that membership on the Faculty Council itself is not an eligibility requirement for election to the Search Advisory Committee by the Faculty Council. I request submission of the results of both of these elections by **Friday, October 5, 2018**. Following receipt, I will appoint additional members so that the Committee will be assembled and prepared to begin its work shortly thereafter.

The CAS Dean Search Advisory Committee will be charged with responsibility for:

- Refining the initial position description and engaging with different constituencies within CAS as they do so, to ensure that many voices are heard at the outset;
- Actively soliciting nominations for candidates from appropriate sources within the University and nationally;
- Actively recruiting outstanding candidates who have a record of administrative leadership and achievement and an academic profile suitable for appointment at the level of Professor at Boston University;
- Building a pool of applicants that contains outstanding individuals who would, if selected, contribute diversity to Boston University;
- Evaluating the qualifications and assessing the strength of nominees and applicants, using best practices to identify those who should progress to candidacy;
- Consulting with the faculty of CAS and other School and University stakeholders on finalists;
- Recommending the names of 3-5 qualified candidates, outlining the strengths and limitations of each, for final selection by the President and approval by the Board of Trustees.

The members of the CAS Dean Search Advisory Committee should not vote as part of its process and deliberations. Rather, the work should be accomplished by discussion and consensus. Ideally, the committee will conclude its work and submit its recommendations no later than **Monday, April 8, 2019**.

The College of Arts & Sciences is frequently referred to as “the heart of Boston University” – nurturing the creation and transmission of vital new knowledge across the humanities and social, natural, and computational sciences. The next Dean of CAS will be charged with further enhancing the quality and stature of the College. I encourage all faculty to contribute their expertise and assistance to the formation of this Dean’s Search Advisory Committee and to the success of its important charge.

cc: Robert A. Brown, President
Cataldo Leone, Chair of the Faculty Council
Provost’s Cabinet