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TO: Boston University Faculty

FROM: Jean Morrison, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer 

DATE: October 24, 2019

SUBJECT: Announcement of the Search Advisory Committee for the Dean of the BU School of Theology

As we begin the process of selecting the next dean of the School of Theology, the first step is to constitute the Search Advisory Committee. 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.”* In addition, the provost appoints the chair of the committee.

I am pleased to announce that we have completed this initial step, and the membership of the Search Advisory Committee for the Dean of the Boston University School of Theology (STH) is listed at the end of this memo. I thank the STH Faculty and the University’s Faculty Council for their efforts to elect members to serve on this critical committee. I would also like to thank, in advance, the members of the Search Advisory Committee for their service and give special acknowledgement to David Chard, Dean *ad interim* of the Wheelock College of Education & Human Development, who will serve as chair.

The charge to the Search Advisory Committee and the process by which it should conduct its work is outlined in my [memo of August 30](#). I will soon convene the Committee to provide them with further specifics of their charge, with the expectation that they will immediately begin the work of consulting with faculty and relevant stakeholders, soliciting nominations, recruiting outstanding candidates, and evaluating the qualifications and strengths of nominees and applicants. I will ask the Search Advisory Committee to forward the names of 3-5 qualified candidates to me by **March 30, 2020**, for final selection of the dean by President Brown and approval by the Board of Trustees.

The selection of a new dean is among the most important decisions we make. I look forward to working with the Search Advisory Committee to identify and recruit an outstanding faculty leader to serve as the next dean of the School of Theology.

Cc: Robert A. Brown
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Provost’s Cabinet

Search Advisory Committee for the Dean of the School of Theology

Chair:

David Chard, Dean *ad interim*, Wheelock College of Education & Human Development
(selected by the University Provost)

Members:

Cristian De La Rosa, Clinical Associate Professor of Contextual Theology and Practice, School of Theology (elected by the School of Theology)

Ellen DeVoe, Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work (elected by the Faculty Council)

Courtney Goto, Associate Professor of Religious Education, School of Theology (elected by the School of Theology)

Shelly Rambo, Associate Professor of Theology, School of Theology (elected by the School of Theology)

Dana Robert, Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission, School of Theology (selected by the University Provost)

Judith Swanson, Associate Professor Political Science, College of Arts & Sciences (elected by the Faculty Council)

Jay Wexler, Professor of Law, School of Law (selected by the University Provost)