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TO: Boston University Faculty and Staff

FROM: Jean Morrison, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer 

DATE: August 25, 2021

SUBJECT: Professor Adil Najam to Step Down as Dean of the Pardee School of Global Studies; Formation of the Dean Search Advisory Committee

Professor Adil Najam, who has served with distinction as the inaugural Dean of the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, has announced that he plans to step down from his leadership role at the conclusion of the 2021-2022 academic year, or as soon as a successor is identified.

Professor Najam has been the Pardee School's dean since its founding in 2014, working to build a world-class faculty and develop the school into a nexus for globally-significant international affairs scholarship around diplomacy, global development, international security, political economy, foreign policy, human rights, and climate change. Guiding a new unit from its inception is no small task. Professor Najam has done so with great professionalism. He has been a community builder whose focus on policy leadership, intellectual rigor, and collaborative partnerships has helped the Pardee School produce highly relevant research and programming that advance its core mission of improving the human condition.

Today, the Pardee School counts among its faculty an accomplished roster of current and former practitioners in diplomacy, development, human rights, and global affairs, and has an alumni community of over 10,000 former students working across industries and around the globe. It offers a wide range of graduate and undergraduate programs and houses seven centers, institutes, and programs of regional and thematic studies. As the global nature of its mission grows more consequential with each passing day, the school's future grows correspondingly brighter. Professor Najam has been a vital part of that, and we thank him for his leadership.

Professor Najam, who first joined Boston University in 1997, is a widely recognized scholar of global climate change policy in developing countries. He served as a lead author of the Third and Fourth Assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, work for which the scientific panel was awarded the 2007 Nobel Prize for advancing the public understanding of climate change. A prolific author and public intellectual who contributes to contemporary global policy debates, he has participated in numerous international boards and commissions, including at the United Nations and in different countries of the Global South. He previously served as the Director of BU's Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future and as Vice

Chancellor of the Lahore University of Management Sciences in Pakistan. Following a sabbatical, Professor Najam plans to return to the faculty of the Pardee School and to his scholarship in international development, climate change and global public policy.

A national search is planned to identify the next Dean of the Pardee School. 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 Pardee School deanship; the faculty most well-positioned to carry out this work will be actively engaged in significant ways in their professional communities and within their academic disciplines. Please note that no member of the Advisory Committee may be considered for the position of dean.

I am requesting that the faculty in the Pardee School organize internally to solicit nominations and to elect three faculty representatives to the Search Advisory Committee. Any individual who would have a role in overseeing the election within Pardee should neither wish to serve on the Dean Search Advisory Committee nor want to be a candidate for the dean’s position. Accordingly, I have asked Susan Eckstein, Professor of International Relations and Sociology, to organize the election to identify the Pardee representatives. I will hold a special meeting for the Pardee faculty in September to discuss the search effort.

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 Pardee 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 Wednesday, September 22, 2021. Following receipt, I will appoint additional members so that the Committee will be assembled and prepared to begin its work immediately.

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

- Proposing refinements to the initial position description;
- 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;
- Evaluating the qualifications and assessing the strength of nominees and applicants;
- Consulting with the faculty of Pardee and other school and University stakeholders on finalists; and

- Recommending the names of 3-5 qualified candidates to me, outlining the strengths and limitations of each, for final selection by the President and me, with approval by the Board of Trustees.

The members of the Pardee 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 4, 2022.

Please join me in thanking Adil Najam for his service to Boston University and to the Pardee School. The formal appointment of the Dean Search Advisory Committee for Pardee is forthcoming, and I appreciate your contributions to and support of the search effort.

Cc: Robert A. Brown