



Monday, Dec. 10, 2018

Message from the President: Dr. Oberem to Step Down as Provost

I want to share the bittersweet news that Dr. Graham Oberem, who has served as provost and vice president of Academic Affairs since January 2013, has informed me of his decision to step down from his role at the end of the current academic year.

Dr. Oberem has helped lay a strong academic foundation here at CSUSM, beginning in 1996 as the founding physics faculty member, program director and department chair. In 2001, Dr. Oberem received the Harry E. Brakebill Distinguished Professor Award. From 2006 to 2011, he served as the associate dean for Budget and Operations in the former College of Arts and Sciences. From 2011 to 2012, he continued in the associate dean role for the newly formed College of Science and Mathematics. In May 2012, Dr. Oberem was appointed as the associate vice president for Planning and Academic Resources until he assumed the interim provost position with the departure of Provost Emily Cutrer in January 2013.

As provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Oberem has been an exceptional leader and advocate for Academic Affairs. For me, he is also a valued adviser and trusted colleague. I increasingly appreciated his thoughtfulness in consideration of university challenges and opportunities, his creation of a strong Academic Affairs leadership team and his seniority and credibility among the CSU provosts. His dry wit and musical avocation provided a perspective that was always welcome on our executive team.

Dr. Oberem's contributions to CSUSM have been innumerable, and we will certainly miss his wise counsel, deep appreciation for and understanding of our faculty, and his grace under pressure. Please join me in wishing Dr. Oberem the very best.

We will look forward to celebrating his accomplishments and contributions to CSUSM in the spring. In the meantime, I am pleased that Dr. Kamel Haddad, vice provost of Planning and Academic Resources, has agreed to serve as interim provost and vice president of Academic Affairs beginning July 1, 2019, ensuring a smooth transition until a national search for a new provost can be launched.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Haynes, Ph.D.

President