

June 3, 2014

President's Message

To all faculty and staff:

I am pleased to announce that last night (June 2, 2014) the Committee on Faculty, Staff, and Administration of the Board of Trustees of The City University of New York voted unanimously to appoint Distinguished Professor Fred Naider as Provost of the College of Staten Island.

Dr. Naider has a long and distinguished career at the College of Staten Island. He joined the faculty of the Chemistry Department in 1973 and quickly established an international reputation in the area of cell-cell communications, applying the tools of organic chemical synthesis, biophysical chemistry, and molecular biology in a highly complementary and synergistic fashion. His experiments have yielded fundamental insight into the transport of peptides through cell membranes and practical guidance in the design of antifungal drugs for human medicine.

Dr. Naider has most recently served with distinction, honor, and integrity as Interim Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs since August 2012. As Interim Provost, he was instrumental in advancing many significant presidential priorities including the creation of CSI's first three academic schools, and he has quickly become a trusted and respected senior-level administrator at the College and among his CUNY peers. My expectation is that he will continue his leadership role until a national search for his replacement is completed.

During his time at CSI, Distinguished Professor Naider has served as chair of the Chemistry Department, Acting Dean of Science and Technology, and has served on numerous College and University committees including the Chemistry Department Personnel and Budget Committee and Appointments Committee, Promotions Committee, and Commencement Committee. He also was co-chair of the Safety Committee, and chair of the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee. He chaired many search committees, co-chaired the Resource and Budget Advisory Committee, and served as a member of The University Faculty Advisory Committee to the Faculty Senate. He was also a long-standing member of the Finance Committee of the Research Foundation and a member of the Board of the Research Foundation of CUNY. In addition, he chaired the 2009 CUNY Nobel Science Challenge Essay Competition in Physiology and Medicine. He also served on numerous national advisory boards including those of the American Peptide Society and the Federation of the American Societies for Experimental Biology, and is presently a member of editorial boards of a number of peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Naider has received many grants in support of his research. His NIH grant has been continually supported for more than 35 years. He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed articles, has been invited to speak at universities and symposia on a national and international level, and has given invited lectures throughout the United States and in Czechoslovakia, Italy, Israel, Spain, and Switzerland.

Because Fred has indicated that he is eager to return to his scholarship and is only willing to serve as Provost for a limited time, I am also announcing the start of a national search for a permanent Provost. As I am committed to having a full and open search process with ample time for discussion and campus input, and with an eye towards attracting the most qualified and diverse pool of candidates possible, I believe that this proposed process should take place in two stages.

First, I want to facilitate a series of discussions starting this fall to determine the qualities we want in a permanent Provost. I envision several town hall meetings as well as consultations with governance committees and department chairs. I will name a small committee, along with a facilitator, to oversee this process and to provide me with input and recommendations on the composition of the search committee, the guidelines of the charge to the committee, as well as an articulation of the desired attributes of a Provost. This input will guide the development of a search prospectus designed for attracting the best candidates.

Second, when this work is finished, we will draft an advertisement and search prospectus, advertise widely, and charge a search committee with evaluating and screening candidates. Following national search practices, this process should include screening of résumés to develop an intermediate list, confidential short neutral-site interviews of ten to 12 candidates, and finally public campus visits by three to five top finalists.

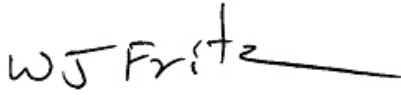
I want to have a newly appointed Provost in place by July 2015 at the earliest to June 2016 at the very latest. During the search period, I expect that Fred will continue to work with the faculty, staff, and administration to implement many of the initiatives we have commenced since 2012.

I am also announcing the immediate commencement of a national search for the Vice President for Advancement and External Affairs. Because this position does not follow the same academic calendar as is customary for appointments in Academic Affairs and because of the critical stage that we are in with our comprehensive campaign, I want to have a new VP in place no later than December 2014.

I am also committed to having full and open national searches for all current Interim Deans and Associate Provosts. Searches will be launched in a staggered fashion so as not to overwhelm the campus. I anticipate that some of the current interim positions will be filled under the leadership of Provost Naider and some will be filled under the leadership of the new Provost.

In the interest of producing the widest possible pool of candidates, these searches will be open to all interested candidates, internal as well as external, and individuals serving in interim titles will be eligible to apply if they so choose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "WJ Fritz" followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William J. Fritz, PhD