

Faculty Senate Resolution in Honor of Dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice Provost for Academic Student Services Jessica L. Waters
May 3rd, 2023

Whereas Jessica L. Waters has served American University since 2008 in a series of impactful roles, including as the inaugural director of the Politics, Policy, and Law Scholars Program, SPA's Assistant and then Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and later in an expanded position as the Dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice Provost of Academic Student Services, and will step down from this role to rejoin the School of Public Affairs as a full-time faculty on June 30, 2023;

Whereas she is a double Eagle, with an earned bachelor's degree in CLEG and Women's and Gender Studies, as well as a JD from the Washington College of Law; and she has shared her valuable knowledge and experience to contribute to the mission of her alma mater;

Whereas she has played a pivotal role in enhancing the AU undergraduate experience through multiple critical curricular innovations, including the AU Core curriculum and its full implementation, the new AU Honors Program with a robust, inclusive curriculum, the Summer Enrollment Task Force initiative that led to the expansion of the summer need-based aid, and the strategic transformation of the former Mentorship Program into the AU Cornerstone;

Whereas she has been a valuable partner with the faculty in the implementation of different phases of the Core, which secured a unanimous vote from the Senate, as well as in the revision of academic regulations to support students, and updating regulations that centered on student wellness, always exploring paths to build stronger connections with faculty with a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect;

Whereas she has been vital member of AU's leadership, adding significant value to critical work related to the AU's Covid-19 response, and the implementation of the *Changemakers for a Changing World* strategic plan among many other initiatives, striving to build a strong sense of community, whether with faculty and staff, or being a mentor for students, always treating community members with respect, care, and deep commitment for what is fair;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate, on behalf of the faculty of American University, **commends** Dean of Undergraduate Education and Vice Provost for Academic Student Services Waters; **expresses** its gratitude for her leadership, innovation, and commitment to wellness and equity for the AU community; **declares** that American University is a better place to learn, teach, and work because of her; and **wishes** her well in all her future endeavors.