

April 14, 2015

Following nine years of extraordinary leadership, Provost Michael Fischer, Ph.D., has informed me of his plans to step down from his position as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and return full time to his tenured professor position in the School of Business. He plans to make this transition at the end of August, at which time he will begin a one-year sabbatical, consistent with the terms of his administrative contract.

Dr. Fischer joined the SBU family as a tenure-track faculty member in the Department of Accounting in 1985. He served for two years as the dean of Enrollment in 1994 and 1995, and was named dean of the School of Business in 1998. He was promoted to the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2006.

Dr. Fischer's tenure as Provost is marked by his focus on making St. Bonaventure University an institution of choice for those seeking an extraordinary, learner-centered academic environment. His accomplishments toward that end include the establishment of the Academic Program Evaluation Process that has contributed significantly to the University's success in accreditation efforts, including the most successful Middle States re-accreditation effort in the history of the University.

He has advocated for investments in professional development for the faculty that has resulted in launching the university's first online programs, as well as deeper engagement in the use of technology in the classroom.

Dr. Fischer played a major role in supporting the feasibility study process with Hilbert College that has resulted in the current effort to develop the University's first academic program to be offered jointly with Hilbert College. He also contributed to the University's efforts to be removed from the AAUP Censure List, reflecting improvements in the University's commitment to shared governance. Under his leadership, St. Bonaventure's retention of freshmen to their sophomore year has also improved significantly, from 79% to 84%.

"While there is always more to do, I feel very good about what we have accomplished together since 2006, and look forward to continuing to advocate for the mission of St. Bonaventure University from my position as a faculty member in the School of Business. I had promised Sr. Margaret that I'd continue in the role of Provost until we completed the process with Hilbert College. With that behind us, and as we embark upon a new strategic planning phase, it was a good time for me to make this transition. I am now looking forward to returning to the classroom, and to using my sabbatical leave time to retool in the use of technology in the classroom," said Dr. Fischer.

On behalf of the University's Board of Trustees, I express deep and profound appreciation to Mike for his dedicated service and significant contributions to our mission. He leaves his term as Provost with the University in a much better place academically than it was nine years ago. We will continue to benefit from his efforts well into the future. We will announce plans for interim and long-term placements of the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs by the end of April.

Sincerely,

Sr. Margaret Carney  
President