

## MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty and Staff of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities, President's Leadership Team, Senate, Campus Council, SOGS and USC Executive, Affiliate University College Presidents

Copy: Decanal Selection Committee

From: Florentine Strzelczyk

Date: March 5, 2024

**Re: Update and next steps on the Arts & Humanities Decanal Search**

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I am writing to share some updates on the search for our new Dean of Arts & Humanities.

Over the past several months, the Selection Committee has identified and engaged with potential candidates, providing invaluable insights and strategic guidance throughout the process. I am grateful for their dedication to finding the right candidate to lead our faculty to long-term success. After extensive discussion and dialogue, we made the decision to pause the Decanal search at this time and turn instead to the talent and experience that exists within our faculty.

I'm pleased to announce that Ileana Paul has graciously agreed to serve as Acting Dean for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2024, following the conclusion of Jan Plug's tenure as Acting Dean. Ileana previously stepped in as Acting Dean in December 2023, demonstrating exceptional leadership during her brief tenure. Her willingness to serve again will provide stability needed to position our faculty for continued success.

With more than 20 years at Western, Ileana currently serves as the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. Previously she was Director of the MA in Linguistics and Co-Director of the Interfaculty Program in Linguistics from 2016-2020. Ileana completed her PhD at McGill University in 2000 and joined Western in 2002. Her research focuses on syntax and morphology of Austronesian languages and she held a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Linguistics until 2011. Ileana's contributions extend beyond her research, as she has been an active member of the Canadian Linguistics Association, spent 18 years as a member of Western's Non-medical Research Ethics Board and has served on several governance committees, most recently the University Research Board and the Senate Review Board Academic (2019-2020).

I want to thank the members of the Selection Committee for their dedication and expertise, throughout this process: Luigi De Angelis Soriano, Renee Bedard, Genevieve De Viverios, Joel Faflak, Emma Ford, Lisa Henderson, Bryan Neff, Pilar Mata, Andrew Nelson, Elena

Pavlova, Penny Pexman, Karin Schwerdtner, Aara Suksi, Jane Toswell and Geoff Wild. I also want to express my gratitude to Jan Plug for his dedication to the Faculty of Arts & Humanities during his tenure as Acting Dean.

I understand that transitions of this nature can bring about uncertainty, but I am confident that with Ileana's leadership and the continued support of our faculty, we will navigate this period of change successfully.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Warm regards,

Florentine