

**University of Windsor
Senate**

5.8: **Report of the Provost**

Item for: **Information**

Forwarded by: **Robert Aguirre**

The Office of the Provost works collaboratively across the university to advance academic excellence. Guided by our strategic plan (*Aspire: Together for Tomorrow*), the office oversees long-range academic planning, teaching and learning, faculty innovation, student life and academic success, enrolment management, and institutional analysis. We are committed to promoting equity, sustainability, and the rich diversity of our campus.

Campus Update—Head Start Events

As in previous years, the University of Windsor will host several Head Start Days over the next couple of months. These summer orientation events are led by the Student Success and Leadership Center in the Office of Student Experience, with key partnership from academic Faculties. Head Start is a key component of the University's student success initiatives and introduces new students to life as a university student. The dates are:

- Friday, July 12th: Faculty of Science, Faculty of Nursing, and Faculty of Education
- Friday, July 19th: Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, and Faculty of Education
- Saturday, July 20th: Odette School of Business and Faculty of Human Kinetics
- Friday, July 26th: Faculty of Engineering
- Saturday, August 10th: General/All Faculties

Campus Update—Appointment of Dr. Cláudio Verani as Dean of the Faculty of Science.

Following a highly competitive search process, Prof. Cláudio Verani, Ph.D., has accepted a five-year appointment as Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Windsor, starting on July 15, 2024.

Verani comes to us from Wayne State University, where he rose through the professorial ranks after his initial appointment as Assistant Professor of Chemistry in 2002. Conducting research in bioinorganic and in physical-inorganic chemistry, Verani has contributed to the fields of molecular electronics and quantum computing, as well as to the mechanistic understanding of fuel production from water. He is interested in environmentally benign metal recovery and corrosion mitigation and has worked on metal-containing drugs that inhibit tumor cell growth.

Verani received his B.Sc. in Chemistry (1994) and M.Sc. in Bioinorganic Chemistry (Honors, 1996) at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina in Brazil. He pursued a Ph.D. degree (2000) at the Max-Planck Institute and the Ruhr Universität-Bochum, and later took up postdoctoral work at the Johns Hopkins University.

For the last seven years, Verani has served as Associate Dean for research in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, overseeing the research activity of twenty departments across the Humanities, Life, Physical and Social Sciences. He led the restructuring of the research support team and the proposal submission process, introduced annual grant writing workshops for faculty, and managed the Mid-Career Fund for Research Infrastructure. He was responsible for physical space, research labs and instrument cores, IT infrastructure, aspects of faculty affairs, community engagement, and special projects serving the needs of faculty, staff, and students across WSU's largest faculty.

I am grateful to the Faculty of Science and to the search committee for its exemplary work. Committee members included:

Dr. Isabelle Barrette-Ng (Integrative Biology), Dr. Kenneth Drouillard (School of the Environment), Dr. Phillip Dutton, (Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry), Dr. Steven Rehse (Department of Physics), Dr. Simon Rondeau-Gagne (Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry), Dr. Nurlan Turdaliev (Department of Economics), Ms. Laura Mclean, (Secretary to the Dean, Faculty of Science), Ms. Angela Awada (Chemistry and Biochemistry graduate student and FCC student member), Ms. Isabelle Hinch (Integrative Biology graduate student and FCC student member), and Kenneth Cramer, Department of Psychology (equity assessor). Search committee support was provided by Iva Gentcheva, Director, Office of the Provost and Faculty Recruitment and Blair Gagne, Secretary to the Provost.