



During the spring semester, my Provost Fellow experience took an unexpected turn after Dr. MacLean left SUU. At the same time, I took over as Interim Director of the Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (MIS) program. The position came with opportunities for service at the university level (e.g. Graduate Council), as well as the typical challenges associated with taking on a new role. I started working with the new Associate Provost, Dr. Bill Heyborne. We discussed the difficulties of taking on a new role, especially in the middle of an academic year. I proposed creating a faculty handbook for the MIS program, which would ease future transitions in the program. We agreed that this would be a good project for me in the spring semester. It would provide a service to the MIS program while also allowing me to incorporate some of the lessons I learned as a Provost Fellow. The MIS faculty handbook I created will be almost

Department this fall. This change will leave the MIS program with new people in each of its two full time positions Director and Lecturer. The complete turnover of the MIS program faculty highlights the importance of having clear, written guidance for incoming administrators and faculty. Such guidance is especially important for positions at the Director level, which include responsibilities that are outside the realm of ordinary faculty duties and are therefore likely to require more training and guidance.

Overall, my time as a Provost Fellow was informative and eye-opening. I was inspired by the level of passion and enthusiasm that I saw from students, faculty, staff, and administrators as they shared their ideas for improving SUU. I have seen apathy at other institutions, but I never saw that here. I am grateful to work on a campus where so many people are deeply invested in decision-making processes, even if we do not always agree on the best decision.