

Provost Update to Senate May 12, 2021

For this report, I simply want to thank all the faculty, staff, and students for a very successful semester. While there have been a number of challenges along the way, we have come together as a community animated by our common mission to work through them. Thank you all for this.

For those students who will be graduating and moving on to a new chapter in their lives, I thank you for having made this institution better by your presence here during your studies. Your perseverance in the face of adversity gives us all hope.

I look forward to seeing many students, faculty, and staff over the next few days at the several events celebrating our students' accomplishments. While this is the closing of one chapter in their growth as persons, I know that the education we have provided them will continue to guide their thoughts and their actions as they begin new chapters in their lives as Catholic University alumni.

I am also looking forward to working with the faculty, staff, and students next academic year as we welcome a new group of students into this community of The Catholic University of America.

Before closing, I would like to share with you some late breaking and astonishingly good news about a notice that we just received from NASA this week. We were informed that our proposal for the Establishment of a Center for Research and Exploration in Heliophysics will be funded as a cooperative agreement of \$64.1M award over the next five years. When executed, this becomes the largest research grant in the history of the university, and when taken with our recent subaward on the CREST II NASA cooperative agreement, pushes our NASA-funded project total to just over \$90M over the next five years, which is phenomenal! There is also much good news on grants and gifts over the past year that I will report in the upcoming and last newsletter of the school year.

Finally, I invite all of us to take some much needed time this summer to engage in some leisure. I know we have all earned time away from Zoom and I hope we can engage in those activities that bring us joy and relaxation!

God bless and have a good summer.