I have asked our interim Provost Douglas Wartzok, to continue as Provost and Executive Vice President on a permanent basis, effective immediately. During his interim leadership period, he has shown an aptitude for the rigors and responsibility that this key position requires. His judgment, fairness, work ethic, knowledge, leadership, and overall comportment are consistent with our trajectory as a student-centered engaged research university.

Dr. Wartzok’s experience at FIU since 2001 and his prior roles in leadership at the University of Missouri, Purdue University and The Johns Hopkins University give him a strong foundation upon which to provide leadership for our FIU at this important point in its evolution.

I am particularly pleased that Dr. Wartzok provided a strong and determined hand to get us through the Reaffirmation of Accreditation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

He has initiated our new strategic planning process, pivoting around “Hit the Ground Running” and Worlds Ahead. This plan will be a critical driver of our new improvement strategy during this next decade.

He is leading a parallel strategic planning process to create a more robust Academic Health Center that will coincide with the Worlds Ahead plan.

Dr. Wartzok’s knowledge of state higher education and governance issues compliments nicely our deep experience in this key arena, and he ably substitutes for me at BOG meetings and other gatherings requiring senior representatives when I cannot be there. My provost must have a reputation for fairness, consistency and rigor. Dr. Wartzok sets a high standard in this important dimension, and he has a wry sense of humor that is often demonstrated.

His loyalty to FIU, his passion for the life of the mind, and his continued leadership by example as a scholar with six peer-reviewed publications in the past three years are
additional hallmarks that give me a sense that he is the right person to be our next provost.

Accordingly please welcome formally Doug Wartzok to this position of leadership and responsibility. He is uniquely gifted to move FIU forward in this era of heightened expectations and diminished resources.

c: Albert E. Dotson, Sr.
   Chairman, FIU Board of Trustees