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**Subject:**[Allstaff-1] Transition in College Advancement

**Date:**Fri, 24 Feb 2012 15:33:57 -0500

**From:**Christopher C. Dahl <[cdahl@geneseo.edu](mailto:cdahl@geneseo.edu)>

**To:**[allstaff-1@geneseo.edu](mailto:allstaff-1@geneseo.edu)

To the College Community:

Several weeks ago, Vice President Catillaz informed me that he wished to retire this summer. He and his wife Maggie are entering the stage of life where they are exploring new challenges; and both of them are agreed that this is an appropriate time for Mike to move to that next, less structured phase of life. Moreover, there are two weddings scheduled in their family this summer. With considerable regret, I have acceded to Mike's request and will permit him to retire in June. I have so informed my colleagues on the cabinet and the leadership of our Foundation Board.

In his five years at Geneseo, Mike has done an outstanding job in building our advancement operation. Not only are we at an advanced stage in our capital campaign, with \$18.2 million already raised towards our \$22-25 million goal and more on its way; but it is also evident that every area of advancement has reached a new level of quality and effectiveness. Our publications--especially the Geneseo Scene Magazine and the capital campaign case statement and video--are the best I have seen in my 18 years on campus. We are now making use of social media to reach out to alumni and friends. The national campaign launch at Gotham Hall in New York City was truly memorable, and our alumni events have both increased in numbers (more than 80 in the past year) and grown in quality. Reunions and parents' weekend programming have drawn record numbers of participants. Our gift officers are making more donor visits than ever before, and we are building a strong base of volunteers and board members. Our accounting and stewardship operations have improved and expanded. Thanks to Mike's leadership and the enthusiastic work of all members of the advancement staff, we are close to building the sustainable advancement operation that I envisioned when we hired Mike in 2007.

In sum, we have experienced success and built up momentum for the campaign and for future advancement initiatives. At this crucial point, I do not wish to lose that momentum. I have therefore decided to begin a national search for a new vice president immediately. We have hired two experienced consultants to assist us, and I am currently putting together a search committee in consultation with the leadership of the Foundation Board and the Chair of College Senate. Provost Carol Long has agreed to chair the committee.

I am optimistic that we can find an excellent replacement for Mike, someone who will not only continue the progress we have made but also take our advancement operation to an even higher level. At my request, Mike has agreed to serve as a consultant, if necessary, after his retirement, in order to manage the transition to his successor and help bring the new person on board. Given the enthusiasm and commitment of my colleagues in advancement and the personal commitment of the cabinet, I believe we can maintain the momentum and continue our success.

As the membership of the search committee is determined and the process begins in earnest, I will keep you informed. In the coming months, I shall be, if anything, even more active and engaged in bringing The Campaign for Geneseo: Shaping Lives of Purpose to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

Chris Dahl