

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for being here this Friday afternoon as we are heading into a well-deserved spring break. Like our students and staff, as a faculty, we have been dogged in moving through these pandemic years. We don't know whether they are over or not. Now we are also negotiating our responses – personal and sometimes professional – to the war in Ukraine. These are not easy days. Accordingly, we must take our moments of ease when they come. I hope everyone is scheduling time to do what will bring you solace and joy in the next week. For some, that's turning off the computer. For others, that's moving through the "to do" list to start back with a clean deck when we return. As people much younger than me say, "You do you" this spring break and I wish you success in whatever pursuit that is.

As I wrote to you yesterday in my letter to the campus, which was guided by conversations with many of you, that, as a faculty, we are heavy-hearted having learned from the newspapers this week about research misconduct and the subsequent news late yesterday that our Vice Chancellor for Research is resigning from his Vice Chancellor role. We appreciate his message to the campus earlier today detailing the circumstances of this infraction. Although we may wish for an easier path for him, Professor Magnusson has done the right thing in stepping down from this position. We acknowledge his many contributions to science and the University and wish him well as he returns to full faculty life.

I also want to thank Professor Penny Gordon-Larsen for stepping into the Interim Vice Chancellor role. She is the current Associate Dean for Research in the Gillings School of Global Public Health. Knowing her personally, I have full confidence in her ability to take over in this circumstance.

Many of you have also asked questions about the art exhibit that has been referenced in the Washington Post in recent weeks, raising questions of free expression. The executive committee and I have asked the Provost to address this situation in his comments today. We have a full agenda, I will turn it over to the Chancellor.