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## December 2017 Newsletter to Department Heads and Chairs

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Vice Provost Rebecca Ropers <vpfaa@umn.edu>

Thu, Dec 14, 2017 at 6:00 PM



### Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs

December 14, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

As the semester comes to a close, I hope you are able to look back on the many accomplishments of your colleagues and students. Here are three updates that may be of interest to you.

**University Budgeting and Finance Forum.** You are invited to discuss university budgeting and finance with Vice President Brian Burnett and Associate Vice President Julie Tonneson on **January 10, 2018 from 9AM-11AM**. We are opening up this session of the New Chairs/Heads Program to all chairs and heads interested in learning more about University budgeting and finance. Please [register](#) by December 22, 2017.

**Evaluating Teaching.** As the semester concludes, please review our [Evaluation of Teaching Policy](#) and note that student rating data should be used in conjunction with other relevant metrics for salary, promotion, and tenure decisions, and that every academic unit should have a documented process for peer review of each instructor's teaching efforts. Resources to support Peer Review of Teaching can be found [here](#).

**Chairs and Heads Lunches.** Thank you to the approximately 45 chairs and heads who attended the lunches with Provost Hanson and me during the fall semester. The major themes emerging from these three conversations related to how academic leaders can lead effectively given our current budget situation; how we can continue to support excellent teaching and educational experiences for our students; how the larger political climate affects our work; and how we can ensure that department chairs and heads have the right guidance in dealing with sexual misconduct allegations. We will schedule additional lunches with the provost in the future, and in the meantime I welcome your thoughts and feedback about issues facing department chairs and heads.

We recognize that we are leading our units in very complex times. However, I have met so many thoughtful and creative people at the University of Minnesota that I remain optimistic that we will navigate these challenges without compromising our values.

Thank you for the work that you are doing to lead the University.

Sincerely,

Rebecca

Rebecca Ropers  
Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs  
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