

Statement by Hai-Lung Dai, former Temple Provost on July 21, 2016

By Hai-Lung Dai, former Temple University Provost

I am grateful to Temple's faculty, staff, students and alumni and the larger Temple community who have been concerned about the future of Temple University for the support they have shown me during the last month. I am also grateful to the Board of Trustees for its most recent morally courageous acts.

Changing the presidency is a grave matter for any university. The soul of an institution of higher learning with a mission to discover and disseminate knowledge as truth is and should be embedded in its values and principles. So long as these values and principles are upheld, the institution will become better and stronger. We are grateful that the Board has given the University this opportunity to recover and continue to fulfill its mission.

I have very much appreciated the opportunity to serve Temple University and its mission of 'access to excellence' over the last four years in the capacity of Provost. My tenure began in the summer of 2012 when then acting President Richard Englert appointed me interim provost. Over this period of time Temple University has seen enormous change and growth in its academics including:

- Tremendous increase of undergraduate applications by 80% at a time the national and state applicant pools have been declining
- Steady increase of undergraduate enrollment with notable improvement in diversity and quality (e.g. average SAT increased from 1110 to 1170)
- Improvement of the USNWR ranking from 134 to 115
- Doubling of international students on the Philadelphia campus
- 30% increase in the enrollment of new masters students
- Real tuition revenue growth due to increased enrollment
- Hiring of world class faculty that combined with existing faculty strength has led to a 29th world ranking in the *Webometrics* measure of faculty publication quality based on *Google Citation*
- Increased receipt in research grants and expenditure that prompted a top 100 ranking in the National Science Foundation listing and the R1 Carnegie classification of research universities
- Investment and improvement in services to students in advising, counseling, and career services
- Much improved faculty-administration relations that resulted in the most cordial union contract negotiation in recent history
- Tripling of the number of students participating in annual gift giving to the University
- Hiring of many excellent deans and the establishment of a dean review system

This phenomenal progress is the result of the continuous effort of the deans, faculty, staff and even students and alums working hand in hand with the Office of the Provost. The enrollment strategy, including the concept that later became the 'Temple Option', that led to the recruitment success we have seen was first conceived during the summer of 2012. The goals and strategies for improving ranking were initiated in a Council of Deans meeting (chaired by the Provost) in July of 2012. The Fly-in-4 program for student success was devised jointly by the Provost Staff and the deans with the Study Grant component modelled after a program previously implemented in the College of Science and Technology. A major resource for hiring faculty was provided by the Board of Trustees by special action in the spring of 2012. And the significant progress made by the Temple health enterprise, including the acquisition of the Fox Chase Cancer Center, has contributed to the success in research. I want to express my personal gratitude to all those who contributed so much to raise Temple's academic profile during my term as its Provost. I am confident the mission of 'access to excellence' will continue to flourish in the able hands of my colleague JoAnne Epps.

Though I am no longer the Provost, I am proud as one among many who care about Temple and have contributed selflessly to its success. I will continue to assist in whatever way possible to ensure the University's wellbeing and its continuing mission of access and excellence.



Hai-Lung Dai