



University of Oregon
College of Arts and Sciences

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MEMORANDUM

TO: College of Arts and Sciences Faculty & Staff

FROM: W. Andrew Marcus *W. Andrew Marcus*
Tykeson Dean of Arts and Sciences

SUBJECT: Divisional Dean for Social Sciences

Based on the advice of a committee of distinguished department heads and others, I am pleased to announce that Professor Philip Scher of the Department of Anthropology will begin a three-year term as Divisional Dean for Social Sciences as of July 1, 2017.

Phil has been a member of the UO faculty in the Anthropology Department since 2002. He is presently serving as Director of the Folklore and Public Culture Program and has previously served as the Department of Anthropology's Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of Graduate Studies. In his role as Director of Folklore and Public Culture, he increased summer online course offerings, giving students flexibility in satisfying core requirements and increasing the program's operating budget. His scholarship and teaching attend to folklore, public culture, new media and technology. He strives to engage with contemporary communities and diverse communities in active and reciprocal ways.

Phil has extensive university service, including membership on the Dean's Advisory Council, UO Senate, Committee on Committees, UO Childcare Committee, and service as a College Advisor. In all his efforts, Phil has displayed a commitment to collaborative problem solving, equity and inclusion, and principled decision-making.

In addition, Phil is an innovative and exemplary scholar in his field of heritage and national identity in Caribbean cultures. He has received a number of prestigious awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship and a Wenner-Gren Foundation grant. He also has a strong record of graduate student mentoring.

Phil's primary interest in serving as Divisional Dean... "is to participate in advancing the academic and educational objectives of the University through the promotion of a strong, diverse, and productive faculty. Accomplishing these objectives in the current climate requires innovative strategies that encourage faculty, departments, and programs to think beyond disciplinary boundaries and to work effectively with sometimes-scarce resources."

I look forward with excitement to working with Phil over the coming years. Please join me in welcoming him to this new role.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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