

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to share the news that Shaun Bowler has informed me of his intention to step down as Dean of the Graduate Division. He has very graciously agreed to stay on until the position is permanently filled. We will begin a national search for our next Graduate Dean at the start of academic year 2022-23.

It has been and continues to be a time of change for graduate education on campus, as the number of graduate students grows, the diversity of the graduate student body expands, and the kinds of graduate programs offered increases. Alongside these changes, many programs have begun to move towards a more holistic admission process, and all programs have begun to develop more systematic means of assessing student outcomes and program accomplishments.

Shaun has led his talented team of staff in the Graduate Division to provide more and more meaningful services and programming for UCR's graduate students. He has collaborated with deans, department chairs, and graduate advisers across campus to strengthen support for students and the faculty who teach and mentor them. He has served as a key member of both the deans' council and my provost's cabinet, and I, for one, shall miss his keen insights, thoughtful recommendations, and dry sense of humor at those meetings.

Once a new dean is named, Shaun will return to the faculty of the political science department, where he will resume his research on the relationships between citizens and institutions in democratic societies. Please join me in thanking Shaun for his leadership of the Graduate Division and his steadfast advocacy for graduate students over the last 5 years.

Sincerely,

Liz

**Elizabeth Watkins, PhD** (she / her / hers)

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