

February 16, 2018 2:00pm

A special message to VA faculty and staff

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier today I met with available VA faculty and staff to underscore the importance of the Department of Visual Arts, The Comcast Media and Technology Center, and the University of Colorado Denver to all be vibrant, engaged, and positioned for creative leadership and success in the important years ahead.

The Comcast Media and Technology Center is an affiliation with a Fortune 500 company that sees value in collaborations between artists, designers and engineers. The \$5M Comcast Gift was to CU Denver, and a faculty member in Visual Arts is the Co-Faculty Director, along with a computer scientist in the College of Engineering and Applied Science. This is a CU Denver, College of Arts & Media and College of Engineering and Applied Science project. The Comcast Media and Technology Center needs the full attention and energy of the Co-Faculty Directors, as the start-up has been slow.

Therefore, I have asked Brian DeLevie to devote his full energies, time and efforts to starting up the Comcast Center, involving faculty in research, engaging students and leading the creation of internal branding so there is no doubt among the faculty, students, staff or community partners in regards to what this center is—and what this gift means.

So that the Comcast Center may advance, as of Monday, February 19, 2018, Brian will be giving his full attention and energies to the visible success of the Center and as a result, will no longer be serving as department Chair.

I will be discussing the needs of the department to satisfy the requirement of APS-1026.

This is how VA will proceed:

- During this time of time of transition, I am calling upon the unit leaders to work with the Dean, Associate Dean, Assistant Dean, and CAM HRM Director to aid in fulfilling VA's essential teaching, research, service, enrollment management and community relations functions.
- I will appoint 3 faculty members (one from each of the major areas: digital practice, studio art and art history, to recommend two Interim leaders:
  - An Interim Chair from digital or studio art, and art history areas
  - An Interim Associate Chair from the "other" area of digital, studio art, or art history areas
- By March 1, 2018 the two Interim leaders (one from each of the two major areas—digital and studio art and art history) will be in place, and I will begin guiding the process (APS-1026) to find permanent leaders who will begin serving on July 1, 2018.

Thank you for your support of the Department of Visual Arts, the College of Arts & Media, Comcast Media and Technology Center, and CU Denver.

Laurence Kaptain, Dean