



College of Arts & Media

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

April 13, 2021

Dear CAM Faculty and Staff Colleagues,

As I mentioned in my note to you last Friday—Chairs have a very difficult job. Outstanding chairs with whom I have worked (as Dean at 3 institutions) put themselves into the job fully—sometimes come back to research and teaching and stay in that role—or employ their experience to seek other options.

Richard Strasser was appointed Associate Professor with tenure in 2016 after an extensive national search, with a concurrent appointment as the Chair of MEIS. This will be 5 years this summer that he served as MEIS Chair and kept a robust teaching load. He came to CU Denver from positions as Associate Dean and Associate Professor at Northeastern University, and also served on the faculties of UMass-Lowell and Clarion State (PA). His degrees are from the Australian National University and the Manhattan School of Music in New York City.

Richard Strasser has been Chair of MEIS since 2016 and under his watch has encouraged and supported a major curricular reform, boldly moved away (at the request of the faculty) from an accreditation system that was not suited to MEIS's unique and contemporary programs, welcomed outstanding faculty into CU Denver, demonstrated campus leadership during the pandemic as a coordinator of the Teaching & Learning Unit of the Campus Safe Return Team, and has been a strong advocate for MEIS and CAM.

Richard informed me that, while his time as Chair was rewarding, he now wishes to return to the role of Associate Professor of Music Business as a teacher and scholar. He wishes to resume a full-time faculty role on June 1, 2021. Therefore, his term as Chair will end on May 31, 2021. I will schedule a time soon to speak with the MEIS faculty and determine their suggestions on future leadership and direction for the department.

Thank you, Richard, for serving in one of the nation's largest public music departments with energy, vigor, dedication, creativity, and deep scholarly knowledge.

Please join me in thanking Richard and supporting him during this transition.

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Larry".

Laurence Kaptain, DMA & FRSA
Dean