



College of Arts & Media  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

20 May 2021

Subject: Interim Chair named for MEIS, beginning June 1, 2021

Dear CAM and CU Denver Colleagues,

In April, MEIS Chair Dr. Richard Strasser informed me of his interest to return to teaching and research. While this came as a surprise, he has devoted 5 years of exceptional effort that has kept enrollments high and seen student success and faculty attainment both increase.

Diversity and gender equity are essential qualities for CU Denver CAM and must continue to be priorities for MEIS—a department that has a recent history of diverse leadership and faculty hires. As we look forward to a national search for a new Chair—or a reorganization, our continuing focus and strategy is to hire qualified candidates who bring diverse perspectives and experiences.

Associate Dean Mark Rabideau and I hosted an April 16<sup>th</sup> MEIS meeting, and then met individually or in groups with every faculty and staff member who wanted to meet and provide input. We heard several characteristics that the department is seeking knowledge/experience within MEIS—and a familiarity with its special nature, the ability to provide fiscal stability, and record of excellence in teaching, research, creative work, and service. Based on all the input we received from MEIS, as well as individual qualifications and past contributions to the department, we've decided on an interim appointment that is best for MEIS at this time.

Dr. Sean McGowan was offered his tenure track position after a national search in 2007. He has earned significant academic credentials (Berklee, University of the Arts, and USC) and has an excellent professional national and international reputation as a performer and teacher. He joined the faculty of the College of Arts & Media in 2007 as an Assistant Professor, was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in May 2013. His petition for promotion to full professor is currently pending in the adjudication pool.

So, I have forwarded Sean McGowan's name to Provost Nairn, and asked that Sean begin an interim term as MEIS Chair on June 1, 2021.

Thank you, Richard Strasser, for serving as Chair, and we all look forward to the contributions you will make as a teacher, researcher, and faculty leader. Sean, the Executive Committee pledges to support your leadership.

Onward!

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

Laurence Kaptain, DMA & FRSA  
Dean