December 17, 2021

Colleagues - we hope this message finds you well and you are looking forward to a restful Winter Break. There have been some important organizational changes in the Finance Division over the last year that we would like to share.

As you may recall, last fall Sara Walsh, former Assistant Vice President for Operational Support and Special Projects, was appointed Executive Dean of Finance and Administration at the Brown School of Public Health. While Sara’s departure was bittersweet and left a leadership gap, it also created the opportunity to reimagine operations and integrate two existing teams under a single umbrella. As a result, the central Budget Office, led by Deb Moser, and Academic Finance and Administration (AFA)’s Financial Planning & Analysis (FP&A) team, led by Jayson Kenyon, were merged effective September 2020. By combining these groups, it created a new, expanded team now known as the Office of Financial Strategy and Planning (OFSP), with Deb and Jayson both reporting directly to Tim Fater, Assistant Vice President for Financial Strategy and Planning.

A quick reminder about the Budget and FP&A teams: The Budget Office, led by Deb, has primary responsibility for developing, communicating, and managing the university’s annual financial planning processes and then consolidating those plans into a single university budget. The FP&A team, led by Jayson, was initially created as a shared service under the Provost in 2014, and became known as Academic Finance and Administration (AFA). As a result of this new structure, the teams work more closely than ever under Tim and have developed a strong, holistic understanding of the university’s finances and actively partner to help advance the university’s financial planning and management, considering both local and central perspectives.

We would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Deb, who will be retiring at the end of December 2021. With more than 24 years of exceptional service at Brown, her contributions to the University’s financial planning and management are wide-ranging and impressive. Deb joined Brown in January 1997 where she led the University’s Loan Office for over eight years, overseeing the management of more than $30 million in Federal and institutional student loan funds, the Tuition Prepayment Program and Brown's Employee Loan and Emergency Grant Programs. In August 2005, she joined the Budget Office as the Director of Budget, Planning and Analysis. She has been responsible for the development and monitoring of Brown's operating budget, was instrumental in the implementation of multiple budget systems and has provided support to the University Resources Committee, among other university groups and committees.
Deb has been a key contributor to the implementation of the university’s zero-based budget and new planning system, Adaptive Insights. Most recently, Deb has played a leading role in the successful merger of the aforementioned AFA and Budget teams and helping to make the Office of Financial Strategy and Planning a reality. We want to extend our personal thanks to Deb for her thoughtful advice and sincere partnership. Please join us in thanking Deb for all she has done for Brown.

Given Deb’s impending retirement, a search for her replacement began in the early Fall. We are pleased to announce Rob Eaton will be joining as Director of Budget, Planning and Analysis on January 5, 2022. Rob is currently the Director of Budget and Financial Planning at Rhode Island College. While we had a very strong candidate pool, the strong feedback received regarding Rob from the search committee, the initiative he displayed during the process, experience in a comparable central role, and strong and natural communication style positioned him as the front-runner. Rob earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Rhode Island and his master's degree from Bryant University. We want to thank the cross-university committee who participated in this important search, including colleagues from across the Finance Division and representatives from BioMed, Public Health, and other administrative areas.

Another important change to note includes the recent realignment of the Operations and Outreach team, led by Sarah Peri, Director of Operations and Outreach. Sarah and her team have reported to the CFO since Sara Walsh’s departure, though effective December 2021 they will join OFSP and report to Tim Fater. Similar to the FP&A team, the Operations group was created as a shared service in 2014 within the AFA organization and now initiates financial transactions for over 60 cost centers. Importantly, these transactions serve as the baseline for much of the financial activity the FP&A and Budget Office analyze and consolidate, creating a natural synergy. This partnership also creates the opportunity to provide “full service” financial support for our clients, from transactional support to budgeting, planning, and analysis.

We look forward to sharing additional updates with you as our teams evolve. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us directly with any questions and/or feedback.

We wish you and your families a healthy and safe holiday season,

Mike and Tim

Michael P. White
Vice President for Finance and CFO

Tim Fater
Assistant Vice President for Financial Strategy and Planning
Office of Financial Strategy and Planning (January 2022)

Financial, Planning and Analysis (FP&A)

Jayson Kenyon
Director, FP&A

Dan Santos
Asst. Director of FP&A

Jenn Lafaille
Lead Financial Analyst

Lyn Messina
Senior Financial Analyst

Mark Correira
Senior Financial Analyst

Madi Royer
Senior Financial Analyst

Kelly Nason
Asst. Director of FP&A

Phuong Mai
Lead Financial Analyst

Amanda Biernacki
Senior Financial Analyst

Lori Hoyle
Senior Financial Analyst

Bonny Gonzalez
Assoc. Director of Budget

Kelly DiMatteo
Financial Analyst

Austin DiMatteo
Financial Analyst

Rob Eaton
Director, Budget Planning and Analysis

Kelly Murphy
Asst. Director of Financial Reporting

Budget Office

Financial Operations

Tim Fater
AVP Financial Strategy & Planning

Sarah Peri
Director, Operations and Outreach

Valerie Keneally
Financial Manager

Ivy Hall
Financial Coordinator

Paula Ferreira
Financial Coordinator

Mary Levesque
Financial Coordinator

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