

Faculty Senate Resolution in Honor of Provost Scott Bass

Faculty Senate, May 2, 2018

Whereas Scott Bass has served American University admirably as Provost since 2008 and will leave his position on June 30, 2018;

Whereas Provost Bass was instrumental in the recruitment and hiring of 43 percent of the current full-time tenure-line faculty and over half of the current full-time term faculty, and in raising the racial and ethnic diversity of the faculty body;

Whereas under his leadership AU is now a “Higher Research Activity” or R2 institution in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, in recognition of the university’s research infrastructure, doctoral programs, centers for knowledge production, external funding, high impact faculty research published with top journals and presses, and national faculty awards;

Whereas he championed the Myers Technology and Innovation Building and the Hall of Science to ensure that AU’s academic facilities matched the quality of our faculty and students;

Whereas he established the AU 2030 initiative that invests in cross-disciplinary faculty collaboration;

Whereas he reenvisioned and revised with the Faculty Senate the Faculty Manual, to further clarify the collaborative governance model and faculty rights and responsibilities therein;

Whereas he increased with the help of the enrollment management team the racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of the undergraduate student body, primarily through increasing need-based financial aid;

Whereas undergraduate applications have reached record numbers, and more students are prioritizing AU as their first choice, in part because of new initiatives such as the Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars Program;

Whereas with the deans and faculty he established AU’s first online master’s programs and modernized the recruitment and admission process;

Whereas he collaborated with university and external constituents to receive support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to expand the advising system and academic support services, which will be fully implemented in the fall of 2018 in the form of RiSE;

Whereas he spearheaded the development and implementation of the AU Core Curriculum when other universities have failed to carry out a curricular overhaul of this magnitude;

The Faculty Senate on behalf of the faculty of American University commends Provost Bass, expresses its appreciation for his leadership, and wishes him well as he returns to the School of Public Affairs and embarks on a sabbatical to establish a center for higher education at American University.