

Dear Coyotes and Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Dr. A. Rafik Mohamed, who has been serving as CSUSB's interim provost since July 1, 2022, has accepted the appointment to serve as the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Cal State San Bernardino, effective January 1, 2023.

As I shared with you all last March, Rafik first joined us in 2015, when he was hired to serve as the College of Social and Behavioral Science's dean. His impactful career in teaching and scholarship began as a student at George Washington University (sociology and criminal justice) and at UC Irvine (master's in social ecology, Ph.D. in criminology, law and society). He next went on to teach and chair the sociology department at the University of San Diego and then teach and chair the social sciences department at Clayton State University in Georgia.

His service in the role of interim provost over these past several months has been outstanding. His knowledge and years at CSUSB, combined with his focus on the success of our students and our faculty as his first and foremost goals in all that he does is exemplary. He also has shown a keen understanding of how our staff work daily to support CSUSB's mission. And he wholly supports CSUSB's role as an anchor institution or, as he describes it, a "steward of place" here in the Inland Empire. In short, Rafik has repeatedly demonstrated that he is the right individual for this leadership position.

His summation of the provost's role to me is clear and cogent to how this leadership position needs to function here at CSUSB today and as we build for the future: "working with faculty to continuously improve the university's academic programs and enhance scholarship; faculty recruitment, evaluation, and professional development; staff management and professional development; promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion; managing the fiscal affairs of the division; leading and coordinating the governance of the division; partnering with university advancement to grow resources for the campus; enrollment management; leadership of student success, retention, and graduation initiatives; assessment; and representing the university in the larger community."

The provost and vice president for academic affairs is vital to our university's progress as a whole, while specifically overseeing the academic heart of CSUSB. I am deeply appreciative of all that Rafik brings to this role and look forward to continuing to work with him as a close colleague. Please join me in congratulating Rafik on his appointment as CSUSB's new provost. The future of CSUSB is bright!

Sincerely,

**Tomás D. Morales**  
President