May 21, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

Following Vice Chancellor Randy Juhl’s announcement of his plans to retire later this summer, Chancellor Gallagher asked that we take the opportunity to determine whether changes in the Research Conduct and Compliance Office (RCCO) or its institutional location could enhance the broader research enterprise at Pitt. After considering several alternatives, we concluded that it would serve the University best to have RCCO report to the Provost through a Vice Provost for Research Conduct and Compliance. This new reporting relationship will begin on July 1, 2015.

Thanks to the effective leadership of Vice Chancellor Juhl over the past 13 years, the University has in place a comprehensive set of programs that ensure the responsible conduct of research and compliance with the various regulations governing University research, while at the same time encouraging the innovation and creativity that is the hallmark of research at Pitt. The new reporting relationship is intended to continue the strong commitment to compliance in conduct of research established under Vice Chancellor Juhl, while encouraging an even stronger alignment of our research and research conduct and compliance efforts.

I have asked George Huber to lead these efforts as Interim Vice Provost for Research Conduct and Compliance, starting July 1. In this capacity I have asked him to ensure that we maintain the full set of responsibilities and programs of the RCCO developed under Vice Chancellor Juhl, while working with Vice Provost for Research Mark Redfern to identify areas of synergy between research and research compliance and conduct, including in educational programs.

George’s education and training as an industrial engineer, systems manager and attorney, as well as his experience at Pitt and UPMC, make him an ideal choice for the position. At UPMC, he served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel. He currently serves as associate dean for public policy and professor of health policy and management in the Graduate School of Public Health, as well as associate research integrity officer at the University Pittsburgh.

I look forward to the contributions that this realignment will make to research at Pitt, and hope that you will join me in welcoming Professor Huber to his new role.

Sincerely,

Patricia E. Beeson