



Professor named Whitman provost

Politics professor Timothy Kaufman-Osborn, currently chair of the faculty, soon will be dean of the same body.

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By Whitman College News Service

WALLA WALLA -- Whitman College's faculty chair will take over the office of provost and dean of faculty on July 1.

Timothy Kaufman-Osborn, who holds the Baker Ferguson Chair of Politics and Leadership, is taking over the position vacated by Lori Bettison-Varga, who is leaving to become president of Scripps College in California.

"I'm delighted to have this opportunity, especially given the caliber of the people I will be working with in the faculty and administration," said Kaufman-Osborn in a statement.

Kaufman-Osborn said he wants to build on new initiatives brought by Whitman President George Bridges and Bettison-Varga in a way that is "consistent with our character and reputation as one of the best small liberal arts and sciences colleges in the nation."

He also plans to explore ways to ensure the success and satisfaction of faculty, especially those who have come to Whitman in recent years. "The demographic composition of the faculty has changed considerably since I first arrived in 1982, and we need to make sure that the college responds effectively to its present character."

Addressing the challenges created by the current economic climate will impact everyone, he said, but "there is much we can accomplish even when we are financially constrained."

He remains committed to ensuring the college offers students a quality undergraduate education.

Kaufman-Osborn's major interests are in the areas of political theory, specifically in the politics of law. He is a former president of the Western Political Science Association and the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington. He recently completed a term on the executive council of the American Political Science Association. He received his doctoral degree from Princeton University in 1982.

Whitman faculty will elect his successor at its regularly scheduled meeting in May.

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