



MONTHLY PRESIDENTIAL UPDATE
November 21, 2018

Dear Arcadia Community,

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving holiday, I find myself reflecting on how grateful I am to be part of a University that is supportive of one another and of their surrounding communities, both in the U.S. and around the world.

After the horrific events at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, our [Office of Institutional Diversity](#) sent a letter of solidarity to the Arcadia community. Within hours, nearly 900 University community members added their signatures to pledge solidarity against hate and intolerance. We all have a role to play in creating a welcoming, vibrant, and productive University community, and our values and strength are what must serve as a bedrock upon which we build such a community.

PREPARATION FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

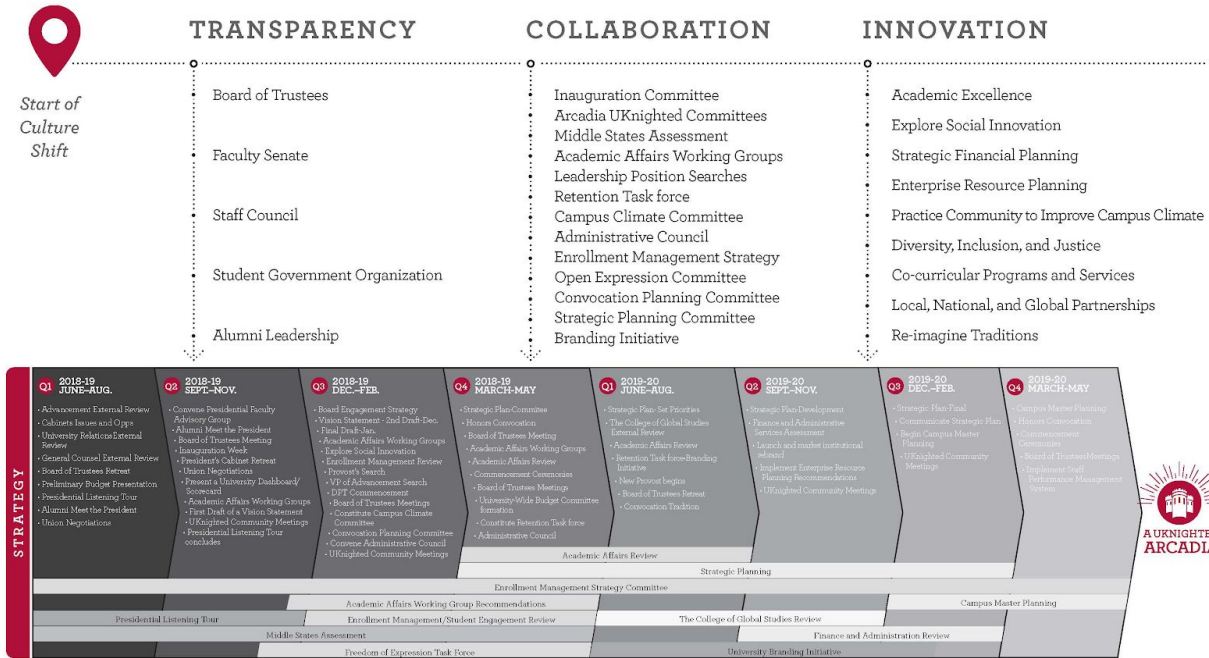
The UKnighted committees have done a superb job working toward the outcomes we set forth from our initial meetings on April 20. The collaboration and hard work of the past six months have begun to shift our culture. By addressing the essential questions as a community, whether small groups, committees, or task forces, we are creating the work we need to develop a strategic plan that is authentically Arcadia.

These committees, in their current form, will conclude in a community workshop on **Reading Day, Tuesday, December 11 from 10 a.m. to noon** in the Rose and Mirror Rooms of Grey Towers Castle. The outcomes of the Budget, Shared Governance, and Aspirational committees will be reviewed and culminate in the Aspirational Committee delivering a draft of the vision statement for community feedback. **The Aspirational Committee will evolve into a task force to explore the concept of social innovation, a point that clearly stood out from their outcomes.** This UKnighted meeting will host a facilitated session to explore how we as a community would define social innovation.

Opportunities to unite our expertise, passions, and curiosity will help us turn the corner toward a bold future. As groups finalize their work, others will be formed to address the focused issues, challenges, or projects we will need for our strategic planning process as an institution. The following graphic demonstrates the points of

transparency, collaboration, and innovation we will address over the next 18-24 months, moving us toward a collaborative and shared approach to strategic planning.

STRATEGY AND PLANNING | ARCADIA UNIVERSITY



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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS WORKING GROUPS

Faculty and staff members were invited to an Academic Affairs meeting to discuss the formation of an Innovative Programming group and a Resource Assessment group. After the goals and structures of the groups were described, a question and answer session reviewed the structures of the groups and the outcomes of plans and recommendations centered on the academic and financial success of Arcadia.

The **Innovative Programming group** will gather and synthesize creative ways to strengthen existing academic programs and to develop innovative new programs. The **Resource Assessment group** will analyze and assess existing budgets and consider ways to save, reallocate, and invest financial resources for innovative plans. Each group consists of a number of faculty and staff who will work with Academic Affairs units to develop recommendations related to innovative academic programs and budget reallocation. These recommendations will be prioritized and submitted to the Provost's Office at the end of the 2019 academic year.

OPEN DOOR RANKINGS TOP NINE CONSECUTIVE YEARS

This year marks the ninth consecutive year Arcadia University is ranked first in the U.S. in study abroad participation, according to the [Institute of International Education's \(IIE\) Open Doors report](#), released this week. Arcadia earned the recognition based on the percentage of undergraduate students participating in a study abroad experience at a master's level college or university, as determined by IIE, with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Our pioneering programs like the University-subsidized Preview program, Global Field Study courses, and First-Year Study Abroad Experience help to boost the 270 Arcadia students who study abroad for a semester or year.

CABINET RETREAT

“What obstacles must we overcome?” “What I value most at Arcadia,” and “What empowerment looks like at its best” are some of the critical themes Cabinet addressed in our Oct. 29 retreat. The group discussed factors as both an individual and as a team, identifying team guidelines for working together and moving the needle forward for Arcadia. Cabinet reinforced the behaviors of a collaborative group with strong relationships between members and an ability to nurture optimism. The unit shared a common desire to capitalize on the team's strengths as leaders, work at an executive level, and empower our units. The outcome of the retreat can be seen in a dynamic illustration that captured the group's work that I have asked to be posted with presidential initiatives on the arcadia.edu/UKnighted website.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Arcadia will use the firm Diversified Search to facilitate searches for both the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Vice President of Advancement positions. Diversified will partner with Arcadia to help identify and recruit the most qualified candidates for these important roles.

Search for Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

The search for Arcadia's next Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will be led by Mark Lapreziosa, vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, and Jill Pederson, Ph.D., associate professor of Art History. The committee is comprised of faculty, staff, and students, including: Foram Bhukhanwala, Ph.D., associate professor of Education; Bruce Campbell Jr., Ph.D., associate professor of Education; Rebecca Craik, Ph.D., PT, FAPTA, dean of the College of Health Sciences; Vitaly Ford, Ph.D., assistant professor of Computer Science and Mathematics; Ana Maria Garcia, Psy.D., associate professor of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, and president of Faculty Senate; Andrew Goretsky, Ed.D., dean of Students; Annette Halpin, Ph.D., MBA, assistant professor of Global Business; Andrew Law, Ph.D., dean of The College of Global Studies; Angela McNeil, ACT 101 program director; Search Committee Adviser: James Wagner, Ph.D., chair, Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

The search process will commence the week after Thanksgiving, with the goal to complete the search and place a new Provost to start the 2019 academic year. The committee and Diversified Search will host open campus forums on [Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.](#), and on [Thursday, Nov. 29, from 12:10 to 1:20 p.m. Community](#). Participation is strongly encouraged at the open campus forums.

Search for the Vice President of University Advancement

The search for the Vice President for Advancement also will commence after Thanksgiving. The committee will be led by Laura Baldwin, vice president for Marketing and Communications, and Brian Granata, director of Athletics. The committee is comprised of faculty, staff, and students, including: Richard Torchia, Gallery director; Mark Wade, assistant professor of Visual and Performing Arts; Janet Readinger, assistant professor and associate director of Clinical Education in the College of Health Sciences; Kerry Leraris '92, '94M.Ed.; Margie Callahan, general counsel; Julie Rosner-Lengele, controller; Lisa Stephens, director of University Relations. Search Committee Adviser: Alison (Aaron) Madsen, Esq., '85, chair, Board of Trustees; Marc McKenna, chair, Arcadia 360 Committee of the Board of Trustees.

The goal is to complete the search and place a new vice president in spring 2019.

Finally, I would like to thank Joemille Santiago for her dedication and years of service to Arcadia University. She will leave the Office of the President on December 3 to pursue another opportunity. Joemille has provided invaluable support to not only me, but to the entire Nair family. Please join me in wishing her the best of luck.

Wishing you a safe Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends,

Ajay Nair, Ph.D.
President

EXTERNAL PRESIDENTIAL ENGAGEMENT

Mona Jha, Esq. Chief Diversity Officer for Baruch College
Philadelphia Asian Americans in Academia
American Graduate School (AGS) in Paris, France
Dr. Elavie Ndura, Vice President, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Gallaudet University
University of the Sciences, President Paul Katz and Provost Peter Miller
Templeton Foundation
Executive Pastor Bob Oliver, New Covenant Church of Philadelphia
Dr. Cheryl Horsey, Director of Student Services, Cheltenham Township
Dr. Beth Chiatti, Assistant Clinical Professor, Drexel University
Miguel Fraga, Secretary to the Cuban Embassy, DC
Won Institute President Bokin Kim & Academic Dean Gerry O'Sullivan