



# AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

SCOTT A. BASS  
PROVOST

## MEMORANDUM

March 19, 2009

**TO:** The AU Community  
**FROM:** Scott A. Bass, Provost  
**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Dr. Phyllis Peres as Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies

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I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Dr. Phyllis Peres as Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies effective July 1, 2009. Dr. Peres currently serves as Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs and Associate Professor of Spanish/Portuguese and Latin American Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Dr. Peres holds her Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese from the University of Minnesota, an MA in Comparative Literature from the University of Iowa, and a BA in English from Brooklyn College. She previously taught at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

At the University of Maryland, Dr. Peres has previously held a variety of administrative posts including that of Director of the Honors Humanities living/learning program and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies. She has had extensive experience in enrollment planning and supervision, first year experience, honors, and assessment. In her current role as a senior staff member to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, she has been engaged in leading her university's accreditation review for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, coordinating academic unit reviews, and working on academic program development at both the College Park and Shady Grove campuses of the University of Maryland.

Dr. Peres is highly regarded at the University of Maryland where Dr. Donna Hamilton, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs has called her, "The best curriculum person I have ever known." Dr. James Harris, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Maryland called Dr. Peres "a creative thinker who effectively restructured Humanities Honors in order to improve the student experience in the program."

Dr. Peres' skills and long experience at the University of Maryland will well suit the wide-ranging portfolio she will inherit as Vice Provost here. She will be charged with oversight of the General Education Program, including its emerging role in First-Year Programs, retention in partnership with the Division of Campus Life, the University Honors Program, the Career Center including the Office of Merit Awards, and AUAbroad. Consistent with the provisions of our Strategic Plan, she will lead important initiatives in appraising, reinvigorating, and changing the scope and focus of these programs to conformity with the Strategic Plan's charge to replicate the experience of premiere liberal arts institutions.

I ask you to join me in extending a warm welcome to Dr. Peres.

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

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