



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.
Office of the Vice President for Research & Partnerships

November 4, 2022

Dear VPRP Team,

You likely have seen the memo distributed this afternoon from Provost Wright announcing that our very own John Antonio will be assuming the role of Interim Dean for the Mewbourne College of Earth and Energy, effective January 1, 2023. We are thrilled for John and to see the positive impacts he is sure to make by applying his outstanding leadership, strategic thinking and planning expertise to the Mewbourne College during this time of great strategic opportunity. The potential for OU to pursue expansion and impact in the domain of energy has never been greater. We will certainly miss having John in our office, but we know that his leadership at the helm of Mewbourne College will be of the greatest benefit to the University.

As you may recall, before joining our team, John served as Interim Dean of Engineering. In that role, he was instrumental in leading the development of a strategic plan for the Gallogly College that was clear and well-aligned with the Lead On, University Strategic Plan. John was also instrumental in leading a university-wide task force to develop the strategic plan for our aerospace, defense and global security research vertical. Again, having that clear focus, aligned with the university's strategic plan, was key in a very successful stand up of our Oklahoma Aerospace and Defense Innovation Institute (OADII), including the recruitment of its inaugural executive director.

John has been instrumental over the past several years in forging key partnerships with both government entities and within the private sector, all of which have been helpful in growing extramural funding, particularly in the realm of national security. Among many other initiatives, John recently developed an internal organizational structure called the Council for Center and Institute Directors (CCID) to facilitate the coordination and collaboration across all VPRP-administered centers and institutes, a critical organizational need that will continue while the search for a Senior Associate VPRP is underway.

John's contribution to our office will be difficult to replace, but through collaboration with our office and other units on campus, we look forward to working together in addressing the energy-related challenges of critical importance to our state and nation.

Please join me in wishing John much success and thanking him for his continued service and leadership to our university.

Sincerely,

Tomás Díaz de la Rubia
Vice President for Research and Partnerships

