

Professor Jean Morrison, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer

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TO: Boston University Faculty and Staff

FROM: Jean Morrison, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer

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DATE: June 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Appointment of Professor Amie Grills as Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

Earlier this spring, I [announced](#) the resumption of a search to identify the next Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs at Boston University. This is a search that was initially begun in late 2019, but was put on hold over the last year as the University focused its energies on managing the COVID crisis. The process was resumed in April 2021, and after considering several talented and exceptional candidates, I am excited to announce the appointment of **Dr. Amie Grills**, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs & Research and Professor of Counseling Psychology & Applied Human Development in the Wheelock College of Education & Human Development, as the next Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs, effective September 1, 2021.

Professor Grills has been a member of BU faculty since 2009, earning distinction over this time as one of our University's most engaged and respected scholars, teachers, and leaders in undergraduate and graduate education. A licensed clinical psychologist and researcher, Professor Grills specializes in the treatment of child and youth anxiety in school settings, as well as the resiliency factors in individuals of all ages following traumatic events. She has received a host of national awards for her scholarship from the Association for Psychological Science, the Anxiety Disorders Association of America, and the Association for the Advancement of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies among others, while her efforts in the classroom were recognized in 2017 with BU's United Methodist Scholar/Teacher of the Year (now the University Provost's Scholar-Teacher of the Year) Award. Her research has been continually supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and she has published two books and over 50 papers in high-tier, refereed journals, along with numerous book chapters and encyclopedia entries. The last book she co-edited, *Critical Issues in School Mental Health: Evidence-Based Research, Practice, and Interventions* (2015), received *Choice Magazine's* Outstanding Academic Title Award.

As a member of the BU community, Professor Grills has held a leadership role in the Strategic Planning process over the last year, leading efforts for the Vibrant Academic Experience pillar as a University-wide strategic priority sponsor. Her energetic work in this area has meant developing partnerships with a wide range of University-wide initiatives that will play centrally in her work as Associate Provost, including the BU Hub, the Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences, Student Wellness and Health Initiatives, and the post-COVID to 2030 Working Group.

Throughout this work and her efforts within Wheelock, Professor Grills has emerged as a bridge-builder, with a reputation among colleagues as an exceptionally good listener who is able to think creatively and bring people together around common solutions.

In her new role as Associate Provost, Professor Grills will provide central leadership on undergraduate academic efforts, working closely with the schools and colleges to promote collaboration and strengthen the undergraduate experience. She will also oversee the BU Hub, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, the Kilachand Honors College, and, in collaboration with the Associate Provost for Digital Learning & Innovation, the Center for Teaching & Learning. She will report directly to the Provost and will be a member of the Provost's Cabinet.

Throughout the review of her candidacy and our conversations, Professor Grills' strong administrative and faculty experience, her enthusiasm for teaching and team-building, and her research background in areas highly relevant to many of the issues facing our students stood out as key assets we sought for this role. We are delighted to welcome her as a member of University leadership this fall and want to thank the other members of the community who applied for this position.

I also want to give special thanks again to Suzanne Kennedy, who has performed exemplary work in the role of Associate Provost *ad interim* for Undergraduate Affairs since January 2020. Sue led Undergraduate Affairs during the most challenging year in memory, helping to oversee the rapid shift from in-person to remote learning. From chairing the Undergraduate Programs Working Group to coordinating the development of the Learn *from* Anywhere model, she excelled in this role, providing tremendous leadership and continuity at a time when we needed it most. We are grateful for Sue's outstanding contributions and are pleased that she will continue to serve in an important leadership position in the Office of the Provost, with responsibility for a variety of emerging, strategic University-wide projects.

Please join me in thanking Sue and in congratulating Professor Grills on her exciting new role as we return to a full in-person campus experience this fall and work to further Boston University's standard of excellence in teaching and learning.

Cc: Robert A. Brown
Provost's Cabinet