Vice President Teresa Branch has notified me that she will retire from the University of Montana on June 30, 2016. After 40 years of service in Student Affairs at the University of Washington, Arizona State University, Iowa State University, and the University of Montana, she will step aside as the VPSA by January 1, 2016 and serve as the Assistant to the President working on projects as assigned for the remainder of the fiscal year.

In her 13 years at the University on Montana, Dr. Branch has made tremendous contributions to the University and the quality of student life on our campus. She began DiverseU, an annual symposium that has catalyzed candid conversations and actions relevant to all forms of diversity. She initiated WelcomeFEAST to engage our incoming students each fall semester. She has overseen the strengthening of the University’s work with Native American students, veterans, and students with disabilities. She has supervised our top quality auxiliary services including Dining Services, Residence Life, the University Center, Curry Health Center, and Campus Recreation. She has been a valuable member of the leadership team of the University, always representing UM with professionalism and integrity. Above all, Teresa has been a wonderful colleague, enjoyed by everyone with whom she has worked. Please share with Dr. Branch kudos for her many accomplishments and years of service to the University of Montana.

Effective immediately, we will begin the search for a new Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs with the core focus on student recruitment, retention, and success, and with strong support from the leaders in the President’s Cabinet. If you are interested in serving on the search committee for this position, please contact my office.

Thank you.