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June 13, 2017

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March 26, 2014

Paul Streeter named VP for budget and planning

By Joe Wilensky

Paul Streeter, assistant dean for finance and administration at the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named Cornell's new vice president for budget and planning, effective April 1. His nomination was approved March 26 by the Executive Committee of the Cornell Board of Trustees.



Streeter

Streeter succeeds Elmira Mangum, who is leaving Cornell this month to become president of Florida A&M University.

"I'm thrilled to have Paul Streeter return to Day Hall in this role," said Provost Kent Fuchs. "Paul has an excellent understanding of the university's overall budget and is well positioned to support the plans and goals of Cornell's colleges and units through the Division of Budget and Planning."

Streeter, whose career at Cornell has spanned 28 years, previously served as assistant and associate vice president for budget and planning; he also served as interim vice president for budget and planning from 2008-10, helping to bring the university through one of its toughest economic periods following the national recession and financial crisis. During that time he was project lead for the administrative streamlining program and co-chaired the Budget Model Task Force that developed a new budget model for the Ithaca campus.

When Streeter steps into the job, the position of vice president for budget and planning, while the same in name, will be newly structured with a dual reporting line to Fuchs and Joanne DeStefano, vice president for finance and chief financial officer.

"Paul will be a great partner as we complete the implementation of the new budget model for the university and begin much more extensive financial planning for the future," said DeStefano.

DeStefano said the new dual reporting of Streeter's job to both her and Fuchs "will allow us to better coordinate strategic mission initiatives with the broader financial health of the university."

Streeter began his career at Cornell as a cash manager in the treasurer's office and then as a senior auditor and audit manager in the university's audit office. He has worked for three colleges at Cornell (Human Ecology, Agriculture and Life Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine) as well as in Day Hall for central administration.

Streeter said he has "been fortunate to have both unit and central experience."

"Going back in, there are a lot of challenges. But knowing and understanding where the units are coming from, and seeing things from both sides, I think I have something to offer in this role. I'm excited about it," he said.

As vice president for budget and planning, Streeter will serve as the senior administrator responsible for managing Cornell's resources and the annual budgeting process, monitoring performance against budgets, and providing leadership in applying university resources to meet Cornell's institutional priorities and academic programming needs. His duties also will include

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serving as a key liaison with the Cornell Board of Trustees and engaging with administrative leaders at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City and Qatar on budget matters.

His job requirements specify that presenting Cornell as a singular entity, while still honoring the university's unique decentralized qualities, is a high priority – and is what Streeter calls one of the “bigger challenges” of the job.

Key to succeeding in that will be “collaborating not only between central and the individual units, but also within the central administration,” he said. “The heart of Cornell is at the unit level. So understanding those needs, helping serve the units and meeting those needs while still dealing within the university framework is the key. It's all about working with people – fostering good relationships and building trust.”

At the veterinary college, Streeter provided financial oversight for the launching of two off-site clinic operations – a for-profit subsidiary, Cornell University Veterinary Specialists in Stamford, Conn., and Cornell Ruffian Equine Specialists in Belmont, N.Y., which will open March 31. He also facilitated planning for a major capital project that will enable expansion of student enrollment, worked with the dean and department administrators to bring the college's budget model into line with the new university budget model, and helped establish a staff council within the college.

Streeter received a bachelor's degree in accounting from LeMoyne College and an MBA from Cornell in 1995. He co-founded the Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund in 2003, has served as the chair of the Cornell United Way Campaign, is currently a board member of the United Way of Tompkins County and board president of Gadabout Transportation Services Inc.

A father of three, Streeter and his wife, Ann Marie, live in Dryden.