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KU names senior vice provost for academic affairs

LAWRENCE — Sara Rosen, dean of graduate studies and professor of linguistics at the University of Kansas, will become KU’s senior vice provost for academic affairs, effective July 25.

“Sara has a proven record of advancing KU’s mission of teaching, research and service to the state of Kansas,” said Provost Jeffrey Vitter. “Her experience as dean of graduate studies and her background as a professor and department chair make her an ideal candidate to lead major academic initiatives here at KU. I’m delighted she’s accepted this position, and we look forward to her leadership.”

Rosen replaces Barbara Romzek, who has served as interim vice provost for academic affairs since August 2009. Romzek will remain at KU as a professor in the Department of Public Administration.

“KU is a great institution, and it’s in the process of making comprehensive, forward-looking changes that will make it even better,” Rosen said. “I look forward to working with Provost Vitter to bring his vision of excellence at KU to fruition.”

The senior vice provost for academic affairs reports to the provost and coordinates academic programs to enhance and support the university’s educational mission. Areas of responsibility include strategic plan implementation oversight; assisting in the development of policies and budgets affecting the entire campus; developing and tracking performance indicators, establishing goals and reporting to Kansas Board of Regents; academic program approval and review; working with the academic deans and facilitating communication with the Office of the Provost; and supervising academic unit directors as assigned by the provost.

A search for the dean of graduate studies will begin shortly. Joshua Rosenbloom, associate vice chancellor for research, will serve as interim dean of graduate studies until the search is completed.

Rosen was named dean of graduate studies in July 2007. As dean, Rosen has primary responsibility for the administration of graduate education at KU, graduate policies and processes, the graduate student admission process, central data collection and reporting, new graduate program approval and graduate program review.

As dean, Rosen has led the university through a reorganization of the graduate studies office. She established the Executive Council of Graduate Faculty, a faculty governing board for graduate studies, and set up an efficient mechanism for the Executive Council to oversee new graduate program approvals and policy development. Rosen established mechanisms for collecting data pertaining to graduate student progress and graduate student outcomes with the ultimate goal of providing the university with the tools to make data-informed decisions about graduate programs. She also established the Office of Professional Military Graduate Education, which brings together the educational and research needs of Fort Leavenworth and other branches of the Armed Forces with programs and faculty at KU.

Rosen came to KU in 1991 as an assistant professor of linguistics and went on to serve as chair of the Department of Linguistics from 2000 to 2007. Her primary area of research is theoretical syntax, particularly the clausal architecture and its contribution to argument and event interpretation. She has a doctorate in linguistics and cognitive science from Brandeis University and master’s and bachelor’s degrees from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

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