

June 24th, 2021

Dear Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Students,

Provost, Director of the MAAL program and long-time faculty, Dr. Christine Niakaris has announced that she plans to retire effective June 30th, 2021. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire Hellenic American University Community, I wish to thank Dr. Niakaris for her valued contribution throughout her long-standing service at Hellenic American University.

Dr. Niakaris has been part of Hellenic American University since its founding, in 2004, and has worked closely with faculty and administrative leaders to provide academic oversight to programs and decision support to the Executive Administration. Prior to her joining Hellenic American University, Dr. Niakaris brilliantly served as Director of the Center for Applied Linguistics and Language Studies of the Hellenic American Union while by preparing a series of English language books she has educated generations of teachers and students. As a member of the Faculty Dr. Niakaris has made student learning a top priority, and as an academic leader she has streamlined faculty development by promoting alignment of student learning outcomes and objectives. Since January 2020, Dr. Niakaris has been leading the academic affairs of the Institution as Provost and has laid the groundwork for Hellenic American University to solidify its educational footprint.

As much as I regret seeing Dr. Niakaris depart, I equally celebrate the appointment of Dr. Themis P. Kaniklidou as Chief Academic Officer of Hellenic American University, effective July 1st, 2021.

Dr. Kaniklidou assumes her duties as Provost following a decade-long successful service to Hellenic American University, having committed herself to vigorously supporting faculty and students, and pushing the institution forward. As Associate Provost, Dr. Kaniklidou, has proven herself to be a highly respected academic leader whose support and loyalty to all constituencies of the Institution have been evident in her everyday activities. Dr. Kaniklidou will continue the work of Dr. Niakaris; she and her team will focus on priorities such as safeguarding quality of instruction, introducing heightened clarity in academic operations and communications, faculty development and performance review, curricular development, and oversight of institutional accreditation and assessment. Yet, it is by pulling in the competence and engagement of every single member of the institution that these priorities, together with a set of University-wide development initiatives, (Business LAB, faculty development, etc.) can help Hellenic American University achieve its goal of being a leader and innovator in Higher Education. I anticipate that Dr. Kaniklidou will harness the energy and expertise that she brings along to leave an imprint on academics and I expect that her joining the Executive Administration will contribute to the overall growth of our Institution.

Please join me in extending our warmest appreciation to Dr. Niakaris for her committed service to Hellenic American University and committing our active support to Dr. Kaniklidou in her new role as our Academic Leader.

Leonidas Koskos, Esq., President