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TO: All Faculty  
President's Cabinet  
Cole Crittenden

SUBJECT: Appointment of Nolan McCarty as Vice Dean for Academic Assessment

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Nolan McCarty as Vice Dean for Academic Assessment in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty (ODoF). Professor McCarty is [Susan Dod Brown Professor of Politics and Public Affairs](#) and Vice Dean for Strategic Initiatives in the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. His appointment begins September 1, 2023.

Since my arrival as Dean of the Faculty a couple of years ago, I have held key conversations with Princeton colleagues on how best to support the excellence and wellbeing of academic departments, programs, centers, and institutes. Sustaining or enhancing the quality of our academic units, through attention to academic program reviews and advisory councils, has emerged as an important priority. I am pleased to report that Professor McCarty will serve as the leader in ODoF with respect to overseeing the [academic review process](#), strengthening our office's engagement with the academic [advisory councils](#) across campus, and supporting our partnership with the Provost's Office, such as through the [Academic Planning Group](#), in advancing strategic academic priorities and initiatives at the University.

After spending time with Nolan, his considerable experience and expertise impressed me. In more than two decades at Princeton, he has served in several leadership roles. In recent years he has been Vice Dean of Strategic Initiatives at SPIA, a role he entered after having served as both Associate Dean (now called Vice Dean) and Acting Dean of the school. In these roles, he worked closely with colleagues in the humanities and social sciences as well as those in the natural sciences and engineering; managed and reformed curricula at all levels; dealt with large and complex budgets, development, and external affairs; and helped manage academic programs in both eras of growth and periods of retrenchment and consolidation. He has been serving as Director of Princeton's Data-Driven Social Science (DDSS) Initiative, which, since 2019, has sought to advance research at the technical forefront of quantitative inquiry in the social sciences and to focus on innovation that carries multidisciplinary benefits and topics that hold contemporary relevance. Finally, from 2011 to 2018, he served as Chair of the Department of Politics.

Equally pertinent, as Acting and Vice Dean at SPIA and as Chair, Nolan helped develop or participate in a number of external reviews of the school, the department, and associated research centers. He has chaired external reviews in several peer political science departments. At Princeton he has also led in cultivating advisory councils or committees, and in his service on executive committees, including those in the Julis Rabinowitz Center for Finance and Public Policy, the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, and the Princeton Center for the Decentralization of Power Through Blockchain Technology. Nolan and I share a deep appreciation for the roles that external reviews and advisory committees can play in the life and progress of academic units at Princeton and broader higher education. His cross-disciplinary research and knowledge of various academic structures, initiatives, and policies on campus will make him an ideal partner for ODoF's strategic planning and efforts in the years ahead.



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An accomplished scholar, Professor McCarty has written on a variety of topics related U.S. politics and political economy, ranging across the causes and consequences of political polarization, economic and political inequality, regulation, and the political role of business. He has also engaged in the development of statistical methodologies and the application of game theory to political questions. He is the author or co-author of four books: *Political Game Theory* (2006, with Adam Meirowitz); *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches* (2016 second edition with Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal); *Political Bubbles: Financial Crises and the Failure of American Democracy* (2013, with Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal); and *Polarization: What Everyone Needs to Know* (2019). With Princeton Professor of Politics and Public Affairs Frances Lee, he co-edited *Can American Govern Itself?* (2019).

In 2010, Professor McCarty was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He earned his A.B. in Economics from the University of Chicago and his Ph.D. in Political Economy from Carnegie Mellon University.

Please join me in congratulating Professor McCarty on his new appointment. I am sure many of you will look forward to meeting and working with him in the years ahead.