

Office of the President  
June 17, 2021

Members, Board of Trustees:

## APPOINTMENT OF THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Ana M. Franco-Watkins as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, effective July 1, 2022.

Background: In September 2020, Dean of UK's Lewis Honors College Christian Brady was appointed interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. After an extensive national search, candidate forums and broad campus input, Acting Provost DiPaola announced the selection of Ana M. Franco-Watkins as the next dean.

Dr. Franco-Watkins has served as interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University since 2021. In this role, she has helped develop a shared, strategic vision for the college, oversaw a restructure and realignment of student services, expanded initiatives for inclusive excellence and successfully stewarded the college's \$68 million budget.

Before serving as interim dean, Ana Franco-Watkins was chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences for four years. She also served as graduate director of Industrial and Organizational Psychology and undergraduate director of the Department of Psychological Sciences.

She is the recipient of the Woman of Distinction Administrative Award, as well as the President's Outstanding Collaborative Units Award. She was also a Lloyd and Sandra Nix Endowed Professor at Auburn from 2017 to 2019.

Dr. Franco-Watkins' research focuses on behavioral economics and decision-making with applications to industry and organizations. She has received external funding support from the National Science Foundation, defense agencies and the Federal Aviation Administration Center of Excellence for transdisciplinary research team projects.

Dr. Franco-Watkins was a first-generation student and holds a doctorate from the University of Maryland, a master's degree from The College of William and Mary and a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

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Action taken:  Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_