

## Provost Perspectives

A newsletter from the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs



As I have walked around campus these last few months, I am struck by the energy and purpose I see in our students, as well as their growing numbers. Our campus community includes a first-year class of 6,001 students this fall, continuing our [five-year streak of breaking enrollment records](#). That first-year number is 8% higher than last year and represents an increase of almost 34% from the incoming class of 2020. This achievement not only underscores the growing appeal of our institution, but also sets us apart from national trends. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported a 5% drop in first-year enrollment this fall—the first decline since the pandemic began in 2020.

Even as we have welcomed a record-breaking freshman class to campus, we have also seen a surge in our overall enrollment to 36,881 students. This increase of 1,571 students over last year makes this the **largest student body in the school's 174-year history**. I attribute this success to the U's reputation as a top research university and the environment we've created that helps students thrive, both academically and personally. I appreciate the work our faculty and staff have done to create and build this environment.

As we continue to grow, I'm committed to ensuring we do everything we can to support our students throughout their educational journeys. With [tuition costs declining nationwide](#), I believe higher education has never been more valuable or accessible, and the U will continue to lead the way.



### College of Humanities Welcomes New Acting Dean, Wanda Pillow

On October 21, the [College of Humanities](#) welcomed new Acting Dean Wanda Pillow.

Pillow is a professor of Gender Studies, and she has served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and former chair of the Gender Studies Division in the School for Cultural and Social Transformation.

[Read more](#)

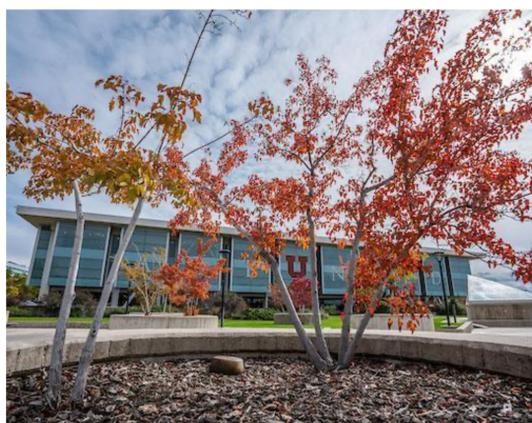


### Randy McCrillis Named Senior International Officer

Dr. Randy McCrillis has been named Senior International Officer.

This position serves as the leader and administrative manager for the [Office of Global Engagement \(OGE\)](#) and is tasked with implementing the new Internationalization 2030 strategic plan.

[Read more](#)



### Syllabi Posting Guidelines for Spring 2025

Syllabus transparency is an Activate project within Navigate U; its purposeful design will assist students as well as faculty in communication regarding the expectations of course sections so that students can make informed choices about their course selections and make timely progress to degree completion.

[Read more](#)

## University Teaching Committee Deadlines Approaching

University Teaching Committee nomination and application deadlines for the 2024-25 academic year are as follows:

#### University Teaching Grants

Deadlines: Monday, January 27, 2025 / Wednesday, March 7, 2025

#### Calvin S. and JeNeal N. Hatch Prize in Teaching

\*\*\*Extended Deadline\*\*\*: Monday, October 21, 2024

#### John R. Park Teaching Fellowships

Deadline: Monday, November 11, 2024

#### Community Engaged Teaching and Scholarship Award

Deadline: Monday, November 11, 2024

#### Early Career Teaching Awards

Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2024

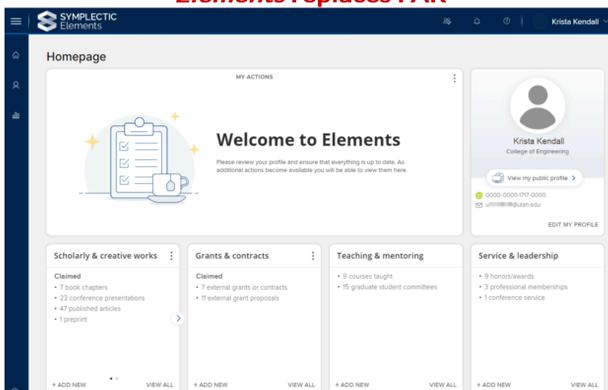
## Presidential Societal Impact Scholar Award Nominations Open

If you or one of your colleagues is engaged in work with high potential to benefit the public, now is the time to [submit a nomination](#) for the Presidential Societal Impact Scholar Award. Nominations from all colleges and departments are encouraged, and self-nominations are welcome.

[Presidential Societal Impact Scholars](#) translate their ideas, scholarship, research and creative activities to non-academic audiences outside the university in ways that transform society. Each receives a \$10,000 honorarium and support from University Marketing & Communications that includes media training and promotion of their expertise and scholarship in local and national media outlets.

Faculty considered for this prestigious award may be either tenure-track or career-line. [Nomination deadline](#) is December 1.

## Elements replaces FAR



The **new faculty activity reporting system, Elements**, is now open to all U main campus faculty and several units within Health Sciences (Nursing, Pharmacy and Health). You can [login](#) to the system via CIS or the Office for Faculty [Elements faculty support](#) page.

This system will replace FAR to facilitate faculty annual reviews and populate public profiles in the new associated [Discovery](#) portal (a more robust and inclusive tool to replace Find a Researcher). Improvements include publication harvesting from 15 databases, year-round data entry, increased auto-population of data, improved reporting capabilities, tailored categories for each college and more.

Much of the historical information from FAR was transferred into the new system. Faculty should log into Elements to claim their publications and update their public profiles.

More information—including training dates, [user resources](#), login information and other materials—are provided on the [Elements User Support](#) website. Faculty training sessions are scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday, November 4, and 11 a.m. Tuesday, November 12.

## Events set for Native American Heritage Month, Veterans Week

A [Tribal Flag Raising Ceremony](#) will kick off Native American Heritage Month at the U from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Friday, November 1, at the Olpin Union Corridor and Ballroom East. Native American Heritage Month is celebrated each November to honor the rich history, diverse cultures and significant contributions of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

Veterans Week for 2024 also begins this week with a service project at the Salt Lake City Cemetery from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, November 2. More information is available through the [Bennion Center website](#). Other Veterans Week activities include:

The Military Appreciation Football Game on November 9.

Veterans Day at the Natural History Museum, 1-4 p.m. on November 11.

A [Warrior In U Run](#) starting at 6:30 a.m. November 12 at the Red Butte Garden Amphitheater.

A Veterans Week Panel discussion on the legacy and future of Fort Douglas at noon November 13 at the Hinckley Institute.

The Meet-A-Vet BBQ from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. November 14 at the Tanner Plaza.

A Veterans Day Commemoration from 11 a.m. to noon November 15 in the Union Ballroom.