



Wednesday, December 12, 2019

RE: Announcement: Dean of the School of Optometry

Dear School of Optometry Community,

On behalf of Chancellor Christ and myself, I am very pleased to announce that John Flanagan has been reappointed as dean of the School of Optometry for a second five-year term.

Since he began serving as dean in 2014, Dean Flanagan has skillfully guided Optometry through several pressing challenges, including navigating federal accreditation of the Doctor of Optometry program as well as ensuring HIPAA compliance and taking steps to protect clinic data privacy. He has also led the school in developing a bold vision for the future, engaging the Optometry community in an effort to develop the school's first [strategic plan](#) in 24 years. To position the school to meet its goals, Dean Flanagan appointed new clinic and staff leadership and strategically restructured the school's staff to expand the Development and Alumni Relations, Student Affairs, Finance, and Communications teams. He also helped envision and launch a new Events and Continuing Education team. Dean Flanagan has overseen five faculty searches — successfully recruiting the first choice candidate in each one — and has enjoyed an impressive 100% faculty retention rate during his tenure.

Making financial sustainability his top priority, Dean Flanagan has worked hard to raise funds and optimize revenue opportunities. Optometry clinic revenue has substantially increased without compromising patient care and student education, and continuing clinic education is now a significant source of revenue for the school. The school successfully renewed its 42-year Vision Science NIH training grant, which is the largest of the 35 awards made by the National Eye Institute. Dean Flanagan has also worked with Optometry's development team to substantially increase the total funds raised and the number of donors contributing to the school, and to successfully launch the [Partners in Education](#) program, which has added approximately \$5 million in industry funding to date.

Dean Flanagan has prioritized the school's infrastructure and technology needs, renovating the first floor of Minor Hall, creating new student learning space, re-equipping and renovating the pre-clinic teaching lab, upgrading internet systems, and establishing five new research labs. He has also overseen extensive investment in equipment and technology for the clinic, including the addition of patient check-in kiosks.

Under Dean Flanagan's leadership, the diversity of Optometry's professional graduate students has increased, and new initiatives aim to build on this trend. In 2016, the National Optometric Association recognized our School of Optometry with the School of the Year award for its diversity efforts. Additionally, a commitment to a climate of inclusion is reflected in Optometry's network of community clinics and joint clinic initiatives with UCSF, the Department of Veteran Affairs, the Department of Indian Affairs, and Stanford University.

In addition to his work in the School of Optometry, Dean Flanagan served as the inaugural regional dean for the Professional Schools Regional Services (ProS) and is the current lead dean for the campus Professional School Deans group.

Berkeley's School of Optometry continues to be a top-ranked, internationally renowned program, with community clinics and outreach services that serve over 100,000 patients per year. Please join me in congratulating Dean Flanagan on a job well done and in thanking him for agreeing to serve a second term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Paul Alivisatos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

A. Paul Alivisatos
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost