Faculty Colleagues,

Happy Snow Day! As we gear up for the spring semester, I wish you good luck and productive syllabus writing. Below are a few important updates and reminders:

**Textbook Access Program (non Law, EMBA, Grad Tax, or study abroad)**
Students in credit programs are part of the textbook access program which provides students all of their required course materials for a fixed fee.  Required materials must be entered into the Follett Discover Tool in Blackboard for your course.  Students can opt out of the program through an email they have received.  Students in the program should only get their required materials through the program, please do not ask them to print, purchase, or find materials on their own (unless it is at no cost).  If you have digital materials for your course, the bookstore has emailed you instructions of how to add them to your Blackboard page so students can access them.  Details on the program can be found [here](#) and all questions should be addressed to [villanovaushop@villanova.edu](mailto:villanovaushop@villanova.edu).

**Artificial Intelligence**
Please refer to the email sent on 12/19/2024 with an update on A.I. at Villanova.  It is important that you understand this technology and how students can appropriately use it for their learning.  Be sure to clearly state in your syllabus and on assignments any limitations you impose for the use of A.I. generators in graded work submission for your course. Also, report any academic integrity violations you find.

**Lecture Capture Classrooms**
Faculty assigned to [Lecture Capture Capable](#) classrooms outside the Law School, will receive an email prior to the start of the semester with directions on how to select your classes for automatic recordings.  These recordings will remain private in the [MyMediasite](#) library of the lead professor.  *Again, classes will not be automatically recorded. You will need to **opt in** to the recordings.*

**Learning Management System (LMS) Update**
[Brightspace.villanova.edu](#) is up and running and a few credit pilot courses are being run this spring along with many non-credit programs.  Some minor modifications are still being made.  All faculty can now log into Brightspace and you can create your own

sandboxes (empty courses) to start experimenting with.  Anything you build can be copied into any future course.  We have lunched an online help course, The Faculty Information Hub, that you will be automatically enrolled into once you log in to Brightspace.  Remember that starting in the summer of 2026 Blackboard will no longer be used and all courses will be offered in Brightspace.  Extensive training and importing of Blackboard material will begin at the end of the spring 2025 semester.  Here is a [website](#) that shares timelines and other information.  Any department wishing for a demonstration please email me.

**Foundational Use of the LMS Policy**
Please familiarize yourself with [this new policy](#) that will take effect in the summer of 2026. In short, in the LMS, faculty will have their syllabus, use the gradebook,  post all digitally available material only in this location, and add due dates for assignments, exams, quizzes, readings, and other requirements.

**New University Learning Goals**
These are in the final stages of approval after input from many constituents across campus.  Be on the lookout for a future announcement about them.

**Classroom Technology Survey**
Be on the lookout for a survey about technology in the classrooms.  Your input will direct how we upgrade and improve our classrooms for the way you want to teach and interact with students.

**Student Academic and Support Resources**
Direct students to this comprehensive [website](#) for academic, experiential learning, financial, and well-being support. Familiarize yourself with the resources available to help them thrive.

Thank you for your dedication to our students' success. Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Randy Weinstein
Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning
Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering