Faculty Colleagues,

I hope everyone had a restful and restorative break. As we look ahead to the spring semester, there is much to be excited about in 2026 from the full launch of Brightspace to the opening of the Villanova Cabrini Campus. Below are a few reminders to help you prepare for the semester ahead:

Blackboard Ends

On June 18, 2026 Blackboard will no longer be accessible and any data in it will be erased. All fall 2025 Blackboard courses will be imported into Brightspace shortly and by early June all spring 2026 courses will also be imported. These will join your previous imports from the summer of 2023 onward. You can log into Brightspace now to see your imports. If you desire any older courses or organizations to be imported, make the request prior to May 31, 2026 here. Since student data does not transfer you should download any gradebooks or other student items you desire to keep prior to June 18.

Blackboard to Brightspace Conversion

All courses that begin in May 2026 or later will only be taught in Brightspace. If you desire to use any materials from Blackboard, it is highly recommended that you build your new Brightspace course while you still have access to your live Blackboard course (until June 18). Links to third party tools (through LTIs) will be broken, layouts/organization will be different, and there are many more options available that you may wish to explore. You can launch as many Brightspace sandboxes (empty courses) to start using and then copy materials into the live courses before teaching starts. Here is a website that shares links to Brightspace workshops, documentation, timelines and other information.

Brightspace Course Design Lab, Spring Recess 2026

Looking for focused time and in-person support to get started in Brightspace? Join us for a two-day, lab-style program designed to help you build your course in Brightspace. The lab combines substantial individual work time with targeted guidance, short demonstrations, and one-on-one assistance from VITAL and UTS colleagues. Whether you are migrating an existing course or designing something new, you will have access to resources, templates, and support throughout the process. Choose from two in-person sessions: March 2-3 or March 4-5, 9:00am-3:00pm. Faculty who will be teaching their in-person course online Summer 2026 are

encouraged to participate. Register here.

Textbook Access Program (non Law, EMBA, Grad Tax, or study abroad)
Students in credit-bearing undergraduate and graduate programs, except as noted above, are part of the textbook access program which provides students all of their required course materials for a fixed fee of $20 per credit in which they are enrolled. Required materials (including the use of Lab Archives for courses) must be entered into the Barnes and Nobel College (BNC) system. Students can opt out of the program and purchase materials on their own. Students in the program should only obtain 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 utilize digital materials for your course(s), the bookstore will email you instructions for 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 610-519-4160 or coursematerials@villanova.edu.

Slate for Student Success
Over 500 student support cases were initiated in the fall semester in our new advising system: Slate for Student Success. Thak you for supporting our students in their studies. We will continue to take feedback and improve its functionality. Currently only credit-bearing students are in the system. Faculty, please be sure to complete any feedback requests received by email in a timely manner. Advisors, please check your current cases and close any from the fall semester and finish any notes.

Artificial Intelligence
The new AI at Villanova website has great resources, guidelines, and support. You can also provide any feedback on the AI website here. Remember you determine how AI can be used in your courses by providing students with clear and detailed instructions on its use. Spell and grammar check are always allowed.

Academic Integrity
Please familiarize yourself with the The Code of Academic Integrity, and for the Law School the Academic Code of Conduct, before the start of the semester. Follow all procedures and be sure to report violations. Questions can be addressed to Alice Dailey, Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Professor of English.

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. *Classes will not be automatically recorded. You will need to **opt in** to the <u>recordings.</u>*

<u>Foundational Use of the LMS Requirement</u>

Starting in summer of 2026, all faculty must meet the [foundational use requirements](#) in Brightspace for all their courses. In short, this policy requires that faculty will have their syllabus, use the gradebook, post all digitally available material , and add due dates (using the "Due Date" setting) for assignments, exams, quizzes, readings, and other requirements in Brightspace.

Thank you for your dedication to our students' success. Feel free to reach out with any questions and good luck with the start of the semester.

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