MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty, Staff, and Students
FROM: Provost, Marilyn Sheerer
DATE: March 2, 2016
SUBJECT: Dr. Paul Townend Named Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

I am pleased to announce Dr. Paul Townend’s appointment as the Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, effective April 1, 2016. Paul is an exceptional leader who has demonstrated collaboration in everything that he does. He has served very successfully as the chair of the Department of History; and he has been significantly involved in undergraduate curriculum development, particularly with university studies. UNCW will continue to benefit from his effective leadership in this new role.

In his new role, Paul will provide leadership for UNCW’s engagement in undergraduate education and oversee several academic programs, including ETEAL, General Education Assessment, Honors Scholars College, the Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CSURF) and Undergraduate Studies. He replaces Martin Posey, who was appointed director of the Center for Marine Science in January 2016.

When Paul moves into his new position, he will also oversee University College as part of the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. University College serves all first-year students through advising, the common reading program, learning communities and other programs.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Colgate University as well as a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in British and Irish history from the University of Chicago. His academic involvement on campus includes supporting the university’s living and learning communities; previously serving as his department’s undergraduate coordinator; participating on academic boards for, and supporting programs offered by, the University College, Honors College and CSURF; and actively collaborating with colleagues across campus to advocate for UNCW’s comprehensive applied learning initiative.

This position reports to the provost and works collaboratively with the vice provost and deans. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Aswani Volety and the history department have worked collaboratively to select a new chair, and Paul will handle some transition duties between now and the end of the semester in May.

Please join me in congratulating Paul on this appointment.