



August 14, 2007

Dr. Richard R. Freeman, dean of the College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences since 2003, has announced his resignation from the deanship. He will continue to serve the college as a Distinguished Professor of Mathematical and Physical Sciences and a member of the Department of Physics. Vice Provost for Academic Policy and Faculty Resources Matthew S. Platz, former chair of the Department of Chemistry, has been named interim dean of the college, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Dean Freeman is leaving a considerable legacy. Under his leadership, MAPS made significant progress, including the opening of the Physics Research Building, the creation of the School of Earth Sciences, and the dedication of the Large Binocular Telescope. Interdisciplinary activities expanded during his deanship, and the college is currently spearheading or participating in four of the centrally funded Targeted Investment in Excellence initiatives. Expanding undergraduate research programs was a priority for him, as was providing professional opportunities for MAPS faculty, who have been widely recognized with awards and prizes in the last four years. In addition, he invigorated the college by recruiting outstanding new faculty to its ranks.

Vice Provost Platz is a Distinguished University Professor and a recipient of Ohio State's Distinguished Scholar Award and the Outstanding Teaching Award of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences. In his interim capacity, he will retain his vice provost title. He will also continue to serve as Interim Director of the Institute for Energy and the Environment until a permanent director is named.

Among his first priorities will be working with MAPS faculty to develop a strategic plan for the college.