

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty of Social Science (faculty, staff, students); President's Leadership Team; Senate; Campus Council; USC and SOGS Executive; Affiliated University College Presidents

From: Florentine Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

Date: April 22, 2026

Re: **Leadership Appointment: Acting Dean, Faculty of Social Science**

I am pleased to share that President Alan Shepard has approved the appointment of James Voogt, PhD, as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, or until a new Dean is appointed to begin prior to June 30, 2027, whichever is earlier.

Professor Voogt received his BSc in Physical Geography from Queen's University and his MSc and PhD in Geography from the University of British Columbia. He joined Western in 1995 and is currently Professor in the Department of Geography and Environment, where he previously served as Chair.

An internationally recognized scholar, Professor Voogt has contributed to more than 100 published articles and book chapters and is co-author of the book *Urban Climates* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). His research focuses on the thermal climates of cities, including urban surface temperature patterns, climate adaptation measures, and the impacts of heat on urban residents. He is a Past President of the International Association for Urban Climate, a former President of the Board on the Urban Environment of the American Meteorological Society, and the 2022 recipient of the Luke Howard Award for outstanding contributions to the field of urban climatology.

Professor Voogt brings extensive academic leadership experience and deep institutional knowledge to this role. I thank him for providing leadership to the Faculty during this transition.

I am also deeply grateful to Dean Nick Harney, whose term as Dean of the Faculty of Social Science concludes on June 30, 2026. An experienced academic leader, Dean Harney has provided steady leadership to one of the university's largest and most diverse faculties. Thank you, Nick, for your leadership and significant contributions to the Faculty of Social Science and to Western.

Please join me in welcoming Professor Voogt to his new role and in thanking Dean Harney for his dedicated leadership of the Faculty of Social Science.