



BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

December 8, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

It was wonderful seeing so many of you at yesterday's General Faculty Meeting. Though I shared this good news already, I wanted to formally announce that I have appointed Zoë Wagner as the Assistant Dean for First-year Academic Discovery.

In this new position, Zoë will play a critical role in supporting the Falcon Discovery Seminar – the next iteration of First-Year Seminar. Zoë will provide coherence and consistency across nearly 40 sections and will partner with department chairs and other leaders in Academic Affairs to identify sustainable staffing models for the course. She will also collaborate with the Office of Academic Services and Student Affairs to coordinate the shared experience elements and peer facilitator model that will establish the new seminar as both instructive and distinctive.

Zoë received her PhD in pharmaceutical sciences from the University of Southern California (USC). Her bench research focused on nanoparticle-based targeting of the tumor microenvironment, and her pedagogical research focused on quantitative assessment of knowledge transfer in small group settings. Since arriving at Bentley in 2017, Zoë has focused on implementation of active-learning strategies in the classroom, and research on innovation in the pharmaceutical industry. Zoë previously served on the curriculum and assessment committees at USC, where she worked to integrate basic science and clinical curricula at the school of pharmacy. This prior work served her well for her role on Task Force 5, where she has worked on curriculum mapping and led the redesign group for the Falcon Discovery Seminar.

Zoë will formally begin her work as Assistant Dean when we return in the spring semester. Please join me in congratulating her on this exciting opportunity.

Much thanks,

Donna Maria Blancero, PhD

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers